

THE JOURNAL

Friday, March 11, 2005

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Sports Win sends Gaucho girls to CIF regional semi-finals [C1]

Arts Sketches give intimate look at grand master Rubens [C10]

She has both an amazing technical ability and a highly attuned musical spirituality."

—California Youth Symphony conductor Leo Eylar



SHERRY LAVARS/STAFF

AND PRODIGY Juliann Ma, a 15-year-old student at Albany High School, practices at home.

Pianist, 15, makes a name for herself

Juliann Ma, a prodigy at Albany High School, started playing at age 4 and has won numerous competitions.

 By Martin Snapp
STAFF WRITER

This past June 19 was a good day for Juliann Ma — beyond the fact that it was her 15th birthday. In the morning she entered the prelims of the San Francisco Pianists' Competition at San Francisco State University. The contestants ranged in age from 15 to 21, which meant she was going up against people five to six years older. But she made it to the finals the next day. Then she rushed down to Berkeley, where she won the California Youth Symphony Young Artists Competition that afternoon, playing something completely different from the pieces she had played in the morning. She was one of the best pianists we've had in this competition in the last 10 years," said Albany Youth Symphony conductor Leo Eylar.

They announced the winners

IF YOU GO

WHAT: California Youth Symphony featuring Juliann Ma of Albany playing Chopin, Liszt, Barber, and Prokofiev

WHERE AND WHEN: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 13, San Mateo Performing Arts Center, 650 No. Delaware St., San Mateo; and 2:30 p.m. March 20, Flint Center, 212 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino

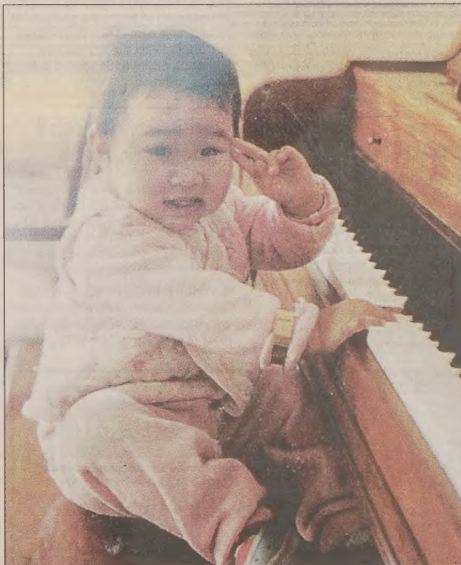
TICKETS: \$12 and \$6

INFORMATION: Call 650-325-6666 or log on to www.cys.org.

starting with the runner-ups, so by the time they announced the first runner-up, I knew I had won," she said. "It was like a beauty pageant, except the other competitors didn't crowd around me and pretend to be happy. My friends were there, though, and they cheered me on."

The first thing she did was the same thing she does after every competition, win or lose. She called her teacher, Hans Boepple. Then she and her parents grabbed a quick bite at the Stanford cafeteria, drove home to Albany and

See PRODIGY, Page A9



MA FAMILY

JULIANN BEGAN learning the piano at 4, but was drawn to it at an even earlier age.

Police departures trouble El Cerrito officials

 By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — City officials are looking into why a higher-than-average number of police officers have left recently. Three police officers and a retired commander have left the department since September, Police Chief Scott Kirkland said,

and one more is expected to leave by the end of the month. The department typically loses three police officers per year, Kirkland said.

"We're trying to figure out, are we different from anyone else and do we have a problem," said City Manager Scott Hanin. "And if so how do we address it. But

the turnover is more than we would like. It's very expensive to train police officers."

El Cerrito Police Sgt. Shawn Maples, a 19-year-veteran of the department, said he believes police officers are leaving to work in better-paying departments.

"People are leaving because they can make more money else-

where," said Maples, vice president of the El Cerrito Police Employees Association. "It's affecting our ability to recruit and it's affecting our ability to keep people."

Maples said El Cerrito ranks at the bottom of comparable cities for officer pay.

See DEPARTURES, Page A4

City discards proposal for Plaza garage

■ El Cerrito will instead focus on using county funds to improve traffic around the Del Norte station

 By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

El Cerrito will abandon plans to build a \$6.6 million BART parking garage at El Cerrito Plaza with county tax funds. But in giving up that earmarked money, it will get about the same amount back for potential traffic improvements at the Del Norte BART station.

The City Council on Monday unanimously accepted a county committee recommendation to accept the deal with Contra Costa County. The money that would have paid for the garage — from the Measure C half-cent sales tax approved by county voters in 1988 — now will go to projects in Hercules and Richmond.

Plans for housing on the southeast corner of El Cerrito Plaza will continue without the 400-space garage. The housing is not dependent on county tax revenue.

"Essentially," said City Manager Scott Hanin, "the decision tonight would effectively finish the garage proposal."

Hanin gave a number of reasons why the council should eliminate the garage.

The garage was first proposed in 2003. At the time the council believed it would help revitalize an ailing El Cerrito Plaza, Hanin told the council. But the shopping center has been a success without it.

The project has encountered stronger neighborhood opposition than expected, as well as concern from Albany city and school district officials. Albany has threatened to close the streets leading to the plaza if the garage is built.

Regency Centers, the prime owner of the Plaza, did not believe shoppers would use the garage, Hanin said. And no one seemed sure if BART riders would pay to park their cars there.

"It has become clear in the past year," said Hanin, "that we're trying to place a round peg in a square hole."

He said the new deal was a "win-win" situation for the city and county.

The West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee has recommended that \$6.6 million in Measure C money previously earmarked for the Plaza garage go to pay for new parking spaces at the Richmond Transit Village and BART parking at the Hercules park-and-ride lot.

In exchange, \$6.8 million in county developer fees will likely go to traffic and in particular, bus access improvements, around the Del Norte BART station.

Mayor Sandi Potter said at a

See GARAGE, Page A5

BART GARAGE TIMELINE

1988: Contra Costa County voters approve Measure C, a half-cent sales tax paying for county transportation projects.

January 2003: The city agrees to use \$6.6 million in Measure C money to pay for a BART parking garage on the southeast corner of El Cerrito Plaza.

2004: Residents and Albany officials criticize the proposal to build the garage and adjacent condominium complex.

January 2005: The Albany City Council votes to look into closing four streets that lead to the shopping center.

March 7, 2005: The El Cerrito City Council unanimously votes to abandon the parking garage in favor of traffic improvements at the Del Norte BART station.

Replacing city hall tops council list

■ They also discuss letting voters decide whether to increase the tax for landscaping and lighting

 By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

A new city hall and a higher lighting and landscaping tax are top priorities in El Cerrito, according to city council members.

It's important that the city have a functioning, signature city hall, like San Pablo, Hercules and Pinole, Councilman Bill Jones said at a March 5 meeting held to set goals for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. A number of city employees and a few residents joined the council at the meeting, which was conducted by a hired facilitator.

Jones also worried that it would cost the city more down the road if it continued to delay the project.

But was the council willing to borrow money to build a new city hall, asked City Manager Scott Hanin.

Borrowing money could be the way to make the project happen, Mayor Sandi Potter said.

As for the landscape and lighting tax, it has been the same since 1988, Hanin said. It would be up to voters whether to increase it and by how much. Voters

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INSIDE

Community Theater

■ Recent productions prove community theaters are willing to take risks. Page C10

At the Library

■ Libraries are working on summer programs for young readers. Page A5



Martin Snapp

■ A religious congregation will take a long walk to its new home this weekend. Page A3

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NEWS BRIEFS

Albany

Discussion on kids and media exposure

A discussion with elementary school parents entitled "Children and Media: How much is too much 'screen' time?" will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Marin Elementary School multi-use room, 1001 Santa Fe Ave., on Wednesday. Mental health expert Abby Medcalf will discuss research on how media, such as television, Internet and video games, affects a child's brain and social development. The talk is sponsored by the Marin School PTA parent education committee.

Car dealership eyes Albany location

Toyota of Berkeley is looking for approval to occupy a vacant 27,557-square-foot office building on Eastshore Highway between a PetsMart store under construction and Target. The dealership would include a sales floor, office and car repair areas. If the project is approved, the city may require the business owner to help pay for a signal light at Eastshore Highway and Buchanan Street.

The City Council, acting as the reinvestment agency, is not yet scheduled to take up the matter, said Albany associate planner Billy Gross. The planning and zoning commission March 8 recommended approving a use permit.

Improvements made to city Web site

The city's Web site at www.albanyca.org has been upgraded to include City Council and planning and zoning commission staff reports, as well as meeting minutes and agendas from 2000. They can be found under the "government" section of the Web site.

The site also includes documents such as the city administrator's 2005 state of the city report, agendas for city commissions, public hearing notices and calendar listings. The documents were placed online as part of an effort of an upgrade to the city's Web site, said Judy Lieberman, assistant to the city administrator.

New rules set cell antenna limits

Cell phone antennas will be prohibited within 50 feet of a residential property, or at schools and parks in Albany as of April 7.

Though in a letter to the City Council, a Metro PCS official called the ordinance one of the most restrictive in the state and believed it violated state and federal law, some residents believed it didn't go far enough. Saying he was writing on behalf of more than 20 Albany families, resident Albert Chen said he wanted to increase the buffer between antennas and residential properties to 150 feet.

The council in December upheld an appeal from Chen and other residents who objected to Metro PCS/Nextel's proposal to build antennas at 1530 Solano Ave. Metro PCS has written the city to say it will resubmit an application for a new wireless facility.

AEF gala is March 20

The Albany Education Foundation Gala Gathering for Great Albany Schools is scheduled for March 20 at the Solano Grill & Bar. Cost is \$50 per person for the general public, \$30 per AEF employee. The Gala includes a three-course meal and beverage, with entertainment by the Albany High jazz quartet. For reservations call 510-558-6823, mailbox 2. Checks can be sent to AEF at 1320 Solano Ave., Suite 203, Albany, CA 94706.

Bench to honor late crossing guard

The late Ethel Hansen, Albany's very first school crossing guard, will be honored with a memorial bench on Tuesday.

The bench will be at the corner of Talbot and Solano, the same corner where she shepherded the little ones from Cornell Elementary School safely across the street for 37 years. She also helped them with homework while they waited for their parents and gave them a friendly shoulder to cry on if they were having problems. Even after they left Cornell, she kept track of "my kids" by buying copies of the Albany Middle School and Albany High yearbooks.

Many of those kids, now grown up with kids of their own, will be at the dedication ceremony, which will take place at 3:15 — right after school, naturally.

El Cerrito

Portola jazz teams with Tower of Power

The Portola Middle School's Jazz Explosion V concert — featuring Frank Martin, plus Tower of Power members Mic Gillette, Marc Russo and Lenny Williams — will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday March 24, at the Knox Performing Arts Center at Contra Costa College, 2600 Mission Bell Dr., San Pablo.

The Portola jazz band and workshop, jazz combo and Latin jazz ensemble will also perform. Tickets are \$15. Proceeds will help pay for the bands' trip to the Reno Jazz Festival in April. For details contact Lynn Chung at Chungdc@aol.com or at 510-236-5637.

Reception's focus is boosting business

El Cerrito's first business reception will be held today from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the community center, 7007 Moers Lane.

The free event will offer networking opportunities and business assistance resources. City officials will be there, along with the El Cerrito High School jazz band, plus prizes and free food and drink.

Sponsors include the city and the city's economic development board, the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce, Comcast Communications, the Hiram Design Group and the Rotary Club of El Cerrito. For more information, call 510-215-4322.

'Trash to Treasures' sale is March 19

The city's "Trash to Treasures" flea market, sponsored by the recreation department, will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 19 in the El Cerrito community center parking lot, 7007 Moers Lane. Vendors can purchase space for \$30 each or \$40 for two. Proceeds will go to the David Hunter Memorial Scholarship Fund to help people with low or fixed incomes to participate in the city's recreation programs. For more information, call 510-559-7000.

Chorale in concert on March 18

The Contra Costa Chorale's March concert, will be presented at 2 p.m. Saturday at El Cerrito United Methodist Church and 8 p.m. March 18 at Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. The program, conducted by new music director John Montanero, will feature an eclectic selection of choral and instrumental works and feature two pianists, Cara Bradbury and Wendell Frey. El Cerrito United Methodist Church is at 6830 Stockton Ave. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley is at One Lawson Road, Kensington.

Tickets are \$15 general, \$12 students, seniors and disabled, free for under age 16. For more information call 510-524-1861.

Weeding work at Mira Vista Park

The Friends of Baxter Creek will weed the demonstration native plant garden at Mira Vista Park from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. For more information on the work party, call 510-237-2036.

— Compiled by Alan Lopez and Deborah Byrd

ALBANY POLICE REPORTS

Monday, Feb. 28

■ **TOOLS STOLEN** — A resident in the 1400 block of Thousand Oaks Avenue reported that someone stole tools from a shed and a bike from the driveway.

■ **TULIP THIEF** — A resident in the 1400 block of Portland Avenue said tulips were taken from her front yard.

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANTS** — Officers arrested a 25-year-old transient man for outstanding Albany warrants, traffic violations and failure to appear. He was cited and released.

Tuesday, Mar. 1

■ **TIRES SLASHED** — The tire of a delivery truck in the 900 block of San Pablo Avenue was slashed and a threatening note was left.

■ **VIOLENT DRIVER** — At 5 p.m., officers responded to the 1100 block of Solano Avenue on reports that the driver of a black 2001 Volkswagen Passat had become angry over a pedestrian crossing outside of the crosswalk. According to the report the driver yelled at the pedestrian then tried to hit him with his fist. Finally, the attacker sprayed the victim

with pepper spray. Paramedics assisted the victim and officers arrested the driver, a 60-year-old Albany man, for assault and using pepper spray in an unlawful manner.

Wednesday, Mar. 2

■ **DRUG CHARGES** — At 2 a.m., officers arrested a 31-year-old El Cerrito man near Central and Pierce streets for an outstanding \$500 Albany warrant for drug possession and failure to appear. He was also found to be in possession of a drug pipe.

■ **HONDA STOLEN** — An Albany man reported his beige 1996 Honda Odyssey was stolen from a lot behind a building in the 800 block of San Pablo Avenue.

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — The rear window of a silver 1992 Subaru in the north lot of Golden Gate Fields was smashed and items stolen from inside.

■ **ROBBERY AT GUNPOINT** — At 9:30 p.m., a resident in the 700 block of Pierce Street reported being robbed at gunpoint by two men.

Thursday, Mar. 3

■ **CHEVROLET STOLEN** —

Overnight a blue 1990 Chevrolet SUV in the 700 block of San Carlos Street was stolen and a black 1993 Honda Civic in the same block was burgled.

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — At 8 a.m., officers stopped a maroon 1990 Acura van near Washington Avenue and Pierce Street for a vehicle code violation. They arrested the driver, a 24-year-old Richmond woman, for an outstanding \$2,500 warrant.

■ **BAD CHECKS** — A business in the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue reported a man had passed two bad checks. The subject had reportedly done this at other businesses also.

Sunday, Mar. 6

■ **DUI** — Officers arrested an 18-year-old Pleasant Hill man driving a silver 2002 Ford pickup for DUI.

■ **FELONY THREATS** — At 3 p.m., officers responded to the parking lot of Albany Bowl in the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue on reports of a vandalism that had just occurred to a silver Chevrolet Impala. The victim was able to identify two suspects. Officers located them and upon investigation, arrested a 19-year-old Albany man for vandalism and felony threats.

■ **TOYOTA STOLEN** — During the

night thieves stole a gray Supra parked at 556

Monday, Mar. 7

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — A Toyota Tacoma was burgled in the 1200 block of

■ **VANDALISM** — A 600 block of Stannard Avenue reported that vandals damaged a 1996 Pontiac Grand

■ **CAMERA STOLEN** — A night thieves stole a camera from a room in the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue.

Sunday, Mar. 6

During the week of February 28 to March 6, officers towed four vehicles, issued 17 false alarms, returned lost animals and assisted people who were locked out of their homes. Officers also responded to 10 civil assists, 158 vehicle accidents, 158 vehicle accidents or persons missing, 80 warnings, 80 firefighter/paramedics responses, one fire call and five medical emergencies.

EL CERRITO POLICE REPORTS

Wednesday, Feb. 9

■ **DRUG ARREST** — A woman at an apartment on the 1700 block of Lexington Avenue was arrested on suspicion of possessing and manufacturing methamphetamine.

Friday, Feb. 11

■ **ASSAULT ARREST** — A 19-year-old Richmond man was arrested on suspicion of taking part in a Jan. 22 assault and robbery of a 47-year-old man at Manila and Everett avenues.

■ **DRUG ARREST** — A 17-year-old El Cerrito High School student was arrested on suspicion of possessing more than \$100 of marijuana packaged for sale at Cerrito Vista Park at 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 13

■ **IDENTITY THEFT ARREST** — An 18-year-old Richmond man was arrested on suspicion of identity theft after allegedly using a credit card to buy \$3,300 worth of jewelry and making cash advances worth \$4,000. The officer was able to recover some of the jewelry and cash, police said. Police will seek charges through the district attorney's office, though the man was released pending further investigation.

Monday, Feb. 14

■ **EMPLOYEE ARRESTED** — A 17-year-old employee at Baskin-Robbins was arrested on suspicion of using a customer's credit card to make more than \$2,600 purchases online. The worker allegedly copied down the credit card number after a customer left it in the store, police said.

Wednesday, Feb. 16

■ **IDENTITY THEFT ARREST** — A 37-year-old Richmond woman was arrested on suspicion of using a counterfeit driver's license to open a charge account at Target. Police said the woman had the Social Security numbers and other personal information of two victims, one of which she used to open the account. Police said they intend to seek charges against the woman through the district attorney's office for theft, burglary and forgery.

Friday, Feb. 18

■ **THEFT SUSPECT ARRESTED** — A 20-year-old Richmond man was arrested on suspicion of stealing a pair of shoes from Copeland Sports at 8:30 p.m. Police said the man had two warrants for his arrests and had previous convictions for theft.

Sunday, Feb. 20

■ **SUSPECT ARRESTED** — A 36-year-old Richmond man was arrested on suspicion of hitting his girlfriend at around 3:20 p.m. Police investigated the incident after the woman was found screaming at San Pablo and Manila avenues.

Tuesday, March 1

■ **AUTO THEFT THWARTED** — An attempt was made to pry the locks and then smash a driver's window of a 1999 Acura on the 600 block of Liberty Street, sometime between 8 p.m. on March 1 and 7:50 a.m. the next day. An alarm sounded and there was no property loss, police said.

■ **VEHICLE RECOVERED** — A 1993 Saturn SL2, stolen in Kensington earlier in the day, was recovered on the 1000 block of Villa Nueva Drive at 11 p.m.

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Wednesday, March 2

■ **BURGLARY THWARTED** — An attempt to smash a rear sliding glass door of a home on the 7200 block of A Street, was made at 10:30 p.m. A friend of the victim arrived at the same time and may have scared off the suspect, police said. The victim was asleep at the time.

Friday, March 4

■ **TOOLS STOLEN** — An electronic buffer and cordless drill were taken from the service bay at El Cerrito Mitsubishi at 6 p.m. The suspect was seen riding a bike at Knott and San Pablo avenues.

Monday, March 7

■ **APARTMENT BURGLARY** — Electronic items were taken from an apartment on the 500 block of Lexington Avenue sometime between 8:45 a.m. and 3:20 p.m.

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — Property was taken from a vehicle inside a garage on the 3200 block of Santa Clara Avenue shortly after 11 p.m. The suspect ran away after being confronted by the victim, police said.

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Jewish congregation acquires a new home

FOR THE PAST 11 years, Kehilla, a Jewish Renewal congregation, has been holding services at the Northbrae Community Church in North Berkeley.

Every Saturday the church is transformed into a synagogue, where Rabbi David Cooper conducts Sabbath services. The next day it becomes a church again, and Rev. Ron Sebring leads his flock in Christian worship.

Friendships have sprung up between members of the two congregations, and on special occasions — for instance, 9/11 — they've conducted joint services.

Every year when Rev. Sebring goes on vacation, Rabbi Cooper fills in for him. He leads the congregation in the Lord's Prayer, then — and this is the part that really sends shivers up their spines — he recites it for them in Hebrew.

Over the years, Sebring and Cooper have become closer than brothers. Sebring is fascinated by Jewish mysticism, especially the Kabbalah, and Cooper — whom Sebring calls "my rabbi" — is an authority on the subject.

"He's a walking Jewish encyclopedia with compassion," says Sebring.

They also share a passion for progressive politics and Middle Eastern food, which Cooper named Sebring on to during their daily lunches at the Jewish deli across the street.

"We always make sure we have more time than just for eating," says Cooper.

But that will come to an end this Sunday. After years of fundraising, Kehilla has bought a building of its own on Grand Avenue in Piedmont.

At 9:30 Sunday morning, the two congregations will gather at the church. Kehilla will thank Northbrae Community Church, one of the flowers for the day's service, and present them with a plaque quoting the Hebrew psalm, "Hiney Mah Tov U-mah Ramin." (Translation: "Here is that is pleasant — brothers and sisters dwelling together.")

In response, Northbrae Community Church will bless Kehilla's journey and wish them well in their new home. Then, after singing "Hiney Mah Tov," the members of Kehilla will walk all the way through Berkeley and Oakland to their new synagogue, carrying their two Torah scrolls.

After the initial song, they will walk in silence.



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

"We don't want to disturb anyone," explains Cooper. "Besides, this isn't a demonstration or a look-at-me thing. It's a walking meditation, a spiritual contemplation of the journeys of the Jewish people over the century. This journey we are making is part of that larger journey."

The older of the two Torahs is more than 500 years old. It was spirited out of the German town of Eppingen just a week before Kristallnacht, when the Nazis burned the town's synagogue to the ground. The other Torah is a relative youngster at only 250.

Rev. Sebring admires the Jewish reverence for the Torah.

"They have a sense of awe and mystery about scripture that we Christians lack," he says. "We wouldn't carry a bible from one church to another. We'd just go out and buy a new bible."

When they finally reach the new synagogue around 1 p.m., they will hold a brief service on the front steps. The scripture reading for the day will be, appropriately, the last few lines of Exodus.

This will be a day that has been longed for. But it will also be tinged with sadness.

"The only drawback to moving is that we lose the intimate contact we have with Northbrae," says Cooper.

"I'm going to miss my rabbi," says Sebring.

But they'll still have lunch together, though probably not as often. And Cooper will still fill in for Sebring the next time he goes on vacation.

And they'll never lose the mutual understanding formed over the past 11 years.

"I don't believe we will have peace in the world until we have peace among the world's religions," says Sebring. "Kehilla being here made it possible for us to get that ideal out of our heads and into our hearts — made it something we could actually do. And what the world needs is more things like that."

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or e-mail msnapp@cctimes.com.

Lee cleared hurdles on his way to Olympics

On June 13, El Cerrito High School will begin to be torn down to make way for a new school. It's the end of an era but not the end of the story for El Cerrito High. Today's students and parents are busy collecting artifacts and interviews in an effort to preserve the high school's 60-plus years of history.

The Journal also wants to honor that history, and through the rest of the school year will present the stories of many of those who left their mark on El Cerrito High, written by El Cerrito High student David Ball, editor-in-chief of the school newspaper.

ON THE MORNING of Sept. 5, 1972, a young El Cerrito High School alumnus found himself thousands of miles away, and surrounded by chaos.

Roddy Lee, a 1967 graduate of El Cerrito High, was in Munich representing the Republic of China in the Olympic Games, and remembers the scene: "I went into town to do some sight-seeing and when I came back, all of a sudden I saw these armed guards all over the place."

Less than two weeks after the start of the 1972 Olympics, eight terrorists would turn the world upside down with the massacre of 11 Israeli Olympic athletes. How Lee happened to be there and running for a foreign country, was a long story that started in El Cerrito.

He describes himself as just another ECHS student. "High school was a great time, everyone's hormones were jumping around and I had a chance to discover myself."

One of his discoveries was his talent for track. "I was one of the fastest kids in elementary school, and then we got to junior high and I was still one of the fastest kids, and so I said, 'let's run track.'"

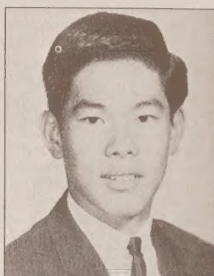
Hurdles were his specialty, and a record he set at El Cerrito High still stands. He ran twice in the state Track and Field Championships, and earned a scholarship to run at UC Berkeley.

At Cal, Lee continued to compete in hurdles. His best finish was third at the Pacific 8 (now the Pac 10) Championships.

While he was competing for Berkeley, a Taiwanese track fan who happened to live in the Bay Area saw him run. Soon Lee found himself being invited to compete in the 1970 Asian



ECHS: A LOOK BACK
David Ball



RODDY LEE in 1967.

PROFILE: RODDY LEE

GRADUATED: 1967
ACCOMPLISHMENT: Olympian, teacher at ECHS

guage and the food were unfamiliar. He won two silver medals in the Games, and was invited to compete in the Olympics.

"When they asked me to run in the Olympics, the light bulb went on," Lee says.

He was the only foreign-born member of the Republic of China's Olympic team. He also was considered the fastest hurdler in Asia.

"It was an experience I enjoyed. I had a tremendous time meeting all the people from the different countries," he says.

He finished 35th in the high hurdles and 28th in the intermediate hurdles. "I did beat a few people," he says jokingly.

After representing the Gauchos and the Republic of China, Lee returned to Cal to earn a teaching credential. His first teaching job was at Kennedy High School in Richmond, where he also was the track coach.

Ten years later, he made it full circle, back to El Cerrito High School. "The place I really wanted to be was El Cerrito," he says. "I wanted to come back to my alma mater, and be there for as long as I could."



RODDY LEE

PROFICIENCY IN track, particularly in the hurdles, landed Lee a spot on Taiwan's Olympic squad.

ECHS ARCHIVING PROJECT

An archiving team is working on preserving the history of El Cerrito High with three projects: A large museum-quality display case with over 200 items, an oral history that will include interviews and will be made into a CD, and a See-El Cerrito High - For-The-Last-Time Weekend event. For more information contact Joann Steck-Bayat at 510-524-9464 or jsbayat@comcast.net or Lu Tipping at 233-7732 or tipping1@aol.com.

Lee is still a teacher and volleyball coach at El Cerrito. He has a son who has graduated college and has been living in China for the past four years and a daughter who recently graduated college and is planning to become a teacher.

From racing his older brother around the ECHS track to racing the world's fastest around the

Olympic track, Roddy Lee has always taken it in stride.

David Ball is a senior at El Cerrito High, editor-in-chief of the school's newspaper El Caballero and a team captain for both the varsity baseball and soccer teams. Reach him at dmbs0101@aol.com.

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El Cerrito Chamber mixer is March 24

An El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce mixer will be held Thursday, March 24, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Citibank, 280 El Cerrito Plaza.

For more information, call the chamber at 510-233-7040.

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Bring your questions and concerns to our window installation clinic at Ashby Lumber in Berkeley.

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840 Ashby Avenue, Berkeley

When: Sat, March 12th

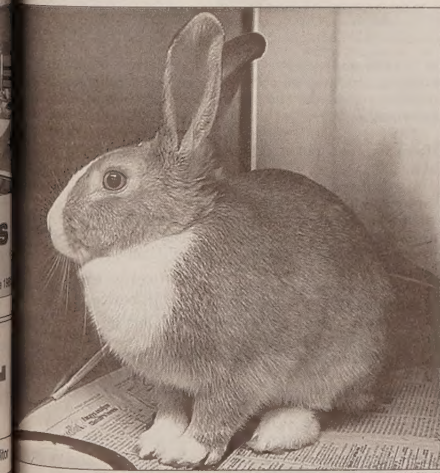
Cost: FREE

10am - noon

Registration: Required

Call 510. 843. 3406 or sign up at the Showroom.

OF THE WEEK



BERKELEY EAST BAY HUMANE SOCIETY

RELEI is a 1-year-old female Dutch mix, say workers at the Humane Society, where she may be available for adoption. They said that she's full of energy and loves to cuddle (although she doesn't like to be picked up). She needs a rabbit-savvy home where only adults will pick her up.

BERKELEY — The following animals may be available for adoption at the Berkeley East Bay Humane Society:

Dogs: Female hound mix, 3 years; female Labrador retriever, 2 years; male dachshund-retriever mix, 2 years; male German shepherd mix, 1 year; female dachshund, 1 year; male German shepherd mix, 9 months; female Australian shepherd mix, 5 months.

Cats: Female black and white, 7 years; female dilute calico, 7 years; male black, 5 years; male black tabby, 5 years; male black (two cats), 4 years; female dilute tabby, 4 years; female calico, 4 years; male brown tabby, 4 years.

Rabbits: female Chinchilla mix brown agouti, 2 years; female English spot black and white, 3 years.

Adoption fees: cats \$100; dogs \$125 — including spaying neu-

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THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tell residents the facts

Matt Middlebrook of Caruso Affiliated, Magna's latest development partner, claims he has not heard that people want a park on the waterfront. One reason is that Middlebrook has failed to meet with the Sierra Club.

The club's prior request to meet was met with silence. Middlebrook also failed to mention that at past community meetings, Albany residents overwhelmingly stated their support for the CESP/Sierra Club Plan.

The Sierra Club/CESP plan offers an opportunity for a great park with ballfields and an open beach shoreline and with an appropriate amount of development that will not destroy Solano Avenue. It would provide Albany with more than enough revenue for the city, schools and library.

When Middlebrook also claimed the track was not going away, he apparently did not read the economic analysis done for race track owners by LECG out of Emeryville.

That study concluded, "The proposed expansion of Casino San Pablo would trigger a chain of events ultimately resulting in the end of major thoroughbred racing in Northern California." The report also concluded, "Even relatively mild reductions in horse-racing wagering have the potential to push the major racing venues — and horse owners — out of the business, and cause conversion of tracks to other commercial uses." (Implications of the Proposed Expansion of Casino San Pablo on Horse-racing in California, Executive Summary, January 2005, by LECG, Inc., page 1) You can find this on the Web, just Google "San Pablo Casino" and go to page 4.

Sierra Club asks Middlebrook, Rick Caruso and Magna to come clean with the people of Albany and the East Bay.

Norman La Force
El Cerrito

La Force is the chairman of Sierra Club East Bay Public Lands Committee and Sierra Club statewide coordinator on Indian gaming and casinos.

Too much traffic

I'm seeing El Cerrito evolve into something I don't like.

Other concerned citizens with whom I speak share similar concerns of how increased housing

(especially apartments) will negatively affect our city. First among them is traffic congestion.

On nearly every street, cars are parked on the left and on the right, forcing traffic to drive down the middle of the street. How does the Fire Department get through, other than main streets such as Moeser Lane, Richmond Street and Arlington Boulevard?

The Civic Center apartments always show "rent now" signs. With the Mill & Lumber apartments being built, how many more cars will be added? We certainly don't need more housing at the Plaza or at Del Norte to add traffic congestion.

Don't be fooled into thinking that because they are located near BART they won't have cars. With more autos purchased in Northern California than in Southern California in 2004, nobody is kidding anyone.

Margie Myers
El Cerrito

Deport illegals

What part of illegal is not understood here? The only thing that needs to happen here is deport illegal immigrants back to wherever they came from.

The burden on the U.S. system to care for these people is ridiculous. If you want to get a temporary work permit, apply for it legally! Since when does illegal activity deserve rewards?

Why should American benefits support these illegals? Multilingual road signs, driver's licenses to non-English-speaking people, Social Security, medical care ... to speak in English, press 1 now (try calling your bank), etc. Can you afford this funding?

If you support illegals working here, then perhaps you support giving gun permits to convicted felons, promoting illegal drugs, selling alcohol to minors and letting non-citizens vote.

Then you might as well change the definition of illegal. What's next? Retirement benefits for gang members?

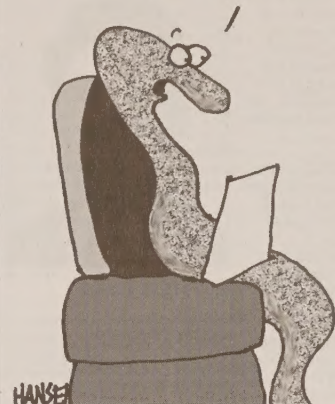
Laurence Ellam
El Cerrito

Albany waterfront

My family and I moved to Albany in 1965.

One of the issues people were discussing at that time was the waterfront. Isn't it ironic that,

HOW ABOUT A VACATION TO IRELAND?



WE'D NEVER GET THROUGH CUSTOMS.



here we are in 2005, 40 years later, and still the burning issue in Albany is what to do about the waterfront?

There are varying ideas proposed for the waterfront, all the way from development along the freeway, Emeryville-style, with the majority of the area set aside for parkland, to the same amount of development, on the western side of the land with accommodation for parkland.

And then there are the ideas being proposed by Caruso Affiliated. I would be interested in hearing what Caruso has in mind.

From my point of view, I would welcome Berkeley-style development, whereby those of us who don't want to walk the waterfront, could enjoy being close to the Bay in a comfortable setting. There seems to me to be enough room at the Albany waterfront for tasteful development and for parkland where outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy the area.

Lois Breault
Albany

Develop reasonably

Why did the Journal give Caruso Affiliated (a giant devel-

opment company from Southern California) front-page coverage on March 4?

Your coverage of other proposals for the waterfront has been sparse, even when you have been offered detailed material by local groups such as Citizens for the Albany Shoreline (an advocate of a park and modest commercial development).

Your readers should carefully note your pro-development bias and demand fair reporting of these crucial issues. Every city that has had the vision and courage to set aside land for parks has been rewarded by increased quality of life for their current residents and by the thanks of succeeding generations.

A reasonable development plan can provide revenue and parkland. If Caruso Affiliated runs the show, we are likely to realize neither.

John Dyckman
Albany

A worthy legacy

It surprises me there was such a large picture on the front page of the Journal regarding the company representative that wants to develop the Albany waterfront.

I'm surprised because I don't remember the paper giving such space to the groups that have been working for more than 20 years to develop a waterfront area and park in tandem with other shoreline cities.

The grand plan for a state park encompassing the shores of the magnificent Bay has been going forward in almost every city except Albany. A development the size Caruso Affiliated plans is like asking Wal-Mart to put a store in front of our Bay.

I can't think of a better legacy for a special city such as Albany to leave to its children and future generations than a beautiful shoreline park with minimal development.

They had the foresight for Central Park, Tilden and Golden Gate Park, which we are so grateful for today. I think we should have this same kind of foresight for our Albany shore and discourage the type of large-scale development that would change our small city, family atmosphere into just one more typical development at our expense.

There are more than enough of those but only one Albany shoreline.

Marjorie Atkinson
Albany

Making things worse

It really bothers me that our so-called "Governor of the people of California" is off on a trip to raise money from representatives of banking, pharmaceutical and other business groups with a stake in California policy debates.

What happened to all the pre-recall rhetoric about not taking money from special interests?

Schwarzenegger puts down our teachers and nurses and proposes cuts to vital services for children. He wouldn't think about raising taxes on any of his big contributors.

Buying signatures for propositions seems to me to defeat the initiative process and to do it with out-of-state money is even worse!

The special election is a complete waste of money the state doesn't have. The governor has solved nothing since he took office, except to borrow more money and put us deeper in debt.

Betty Coates
El Cerrito

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

House of Representatives

Barbara Lee: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley, most of Oakland) 414 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, 202-225-2661. Fax: 202-225-9817; 1301 Clay St., Ste. 1000N, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-763-0370. Fax: 510-763-6538. E-mail: barbara.lee@mail.house.gov.

Ellen Tauscher: (D-10th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 2121 N. California Blvd., Suite 555, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925-932-8899 or 1034 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; 202-225-1880. E-mail through ww.house.gov/tauscher

State Senate

Don Perata: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley) State Capitol, Room 4061, Sacramento, CA 95814, 916-445-6577. Fax: 916-327-1997; 1515 Clay St., No. 2202, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-286-1333. Fax: 510-286-3885. E-mail: senator.perata@sen.ca.gov.

Tom Torlakson: (D-7th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 2801 Concord Blvd., Concord CA 94519; 800-859-9900 or State Capitol, Room 2068, Sacramento CA 95814; 916-445-6083, e-mail: senator.torlakson@sen.ca.gov

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Loni Hancock: (D-14th District: Al-

bany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710, 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-559-1406. Fax: 510-559-1478

County Supervisors

John Gioia: (Contra Costa County, 1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-3429. E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

Keith Carson: (Alameda County, 5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us.

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David Richardson: Ward No. 4 (Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville; part of Oakland; El Cerrito and Kensington. E-mail: Oakport@igc.org

East Bay Regional Parks

Jean Sirri: Ward 1 (Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Kensington, part of Pinole, and San

Pablo). E-mail: jsiri@ebparks.org

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Joe Wallace: Ward 1 (West Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties). E-mail: jwallace@actransit.org; phone 510-891-7143; fax 510-234-7689.

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Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395

Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-528-4141

School boards

West Contra Costa Unified School District: 510-620-2246

Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3766

Goals

FROM PAGE A1

ers could choose to increase the tax to raise \$383,000 — the amount the city's general fund currently makes up — or increase it above that amount to tackle additional city needs.

Those include creek and park improvements, Ohlone Greenway and San Pablo Avenue lighting upgrades and a plan for planting and maintaining trees.

The council also discussed building a new library and stepping up building-code enforcement. Hanin asked the council whether it wanted to pay for one

or two city employees to enforce building construction codes or continue to wait for complaints before acting.

The city's attitude so far, said Hanin, has been "out of sight, out of mind."

Council members also said they wanted to see town hall meetings and a quarterly city newsletter; seismic improvements for unsafe buildings; the hiring of more city maintenance workers to decrease the amount of work contracted out; encouraging greater use of alternative sources of power; and creating a needs assessment for a new library.

Hanin said city staff is work-

ing under the assumption that residents want a new library. He said the redevelopment agency could fund it, but that it would leave less money for other projects. The other option was having residents tax themselves to pay for a new facility.

There were also questions about paying for library staff and additional hours.

"It seems like there's a lot more homework we need to do," Hanin said.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

Departures

FROM PAGE A1

The starting salary for police officers in El Cerrito is \$4,077 a month, and after promotions, can go as high as \$4,955 a month.

That's lower than Kensington, which pays between \$4,316 a month and \$5,347 a month and Albany, which pays between \$4,418 and \$5,371 a month.

And Albany ranks near the bottom of cities along the Interstate 80 corridor, said Aaron Walker, that city's personnel manager.

"You'll find," said Walker, "that El Cerrito's about the lowest and we're about the second lowest."

But pay is just part of the compensation. Retirement and medical benefits also play a big part in the rankings, he said, and have become "budget busters" in some cities.

Officers in El Cerrito can retire at age 50, and earn a pension equal to the number of years they worked multiplied by three percent. An officer who works 30 years for example, can earn 90

percent of his or her salary after retirement.

Maples said that was an industry standard. More importantly, he said, the city lacks medical benefits for retirees, common in other agencies.

Two officers, he said, left the department recently to work in Kensington because the pay is higher and there's less crime.

Kensington Police Chief Barry Garfield said police departments routinely have times when a number of officers leave all at once.

"I honestly don't have a good grasp on how these things occur and how to prevent them from occurring," said Garfield, whose department lost three officers last year.

El Cerrito compares its compensation for police officers to 15 other cities in the county, though employee services manager Sandi Chapek would not comment on where the city ranks. The City Council has a policy of paying employees at the median among that list.

The El Cerrito Police Officers Association is negotiation for a new contract following the end

of a four-year contract last June. The decision was made not to renew the contract at the time, pending the outcome of Measure K, the utility users tax, on the November ballot.

Maples said negotiations were going relatively smoothly and expected an outcome soon.

In the meantime, Kirkland said police officers are working overtime to fill in for the four vacancies. The city, which has authorization for 39 sworn officers, is down to 35 sworn, including higher-ranked employees.

He said he believed officers have left the department for a variety of reasons. Among them, some have been unprepared for the demands of police work and have opted to go to other professions or departments that are less busy than El Cerrito.

The city has historically had difficulty maintaining staffing levels within the police department, said City Councilwoman Janet Abelson.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

WRITE TO THE JOURNAL

Letters to the editor and op-ed pieces reflect the opinion of the writer and must include the author's first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. Maximum letter length is 300 words. Maximum op-ed length is 450 words.

Letters are subject to editing for brevity, grammar and style. Not all letters may be published.

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Please write JOURNAL LETTERS on the envelope, at the top of the fax or in the subject field of the e-mail message.

Libraries already planning summer programs

Quote of the week:
"People's dreams are made of what they do all day. The same way a dog that runs after rabbits will dream of rabbits. So what you do that makes your soul, not the other way around."
— Barbara Kingsolver, *Out of the Dust*



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

THIS IS THE time of year when children's librarians are planning their summer events. While some libraries, this will include some sort of summer reading program for children, others like dragons or, depending on the theme, the Olympics. Every year, there are discussions about these librarians about how to count reading time: should it be by minutes or by number of books? What prizes also comes to mind? What should they be? What would be any at all? What boards are designed, and the role of sponsors is thoroughly discussed.

The Alameda County and Contra Costa County libraries, as well as Berkeley, Alameda and San Leandro Public Libraries, are part of a consortium called the "Collaborative

ative Summer Reading Program" (CSRP). This national organization combines 32 state agencies and associations and together they choose a theme, develop a manual, research artists and put together a summer reading program kit for all participants. This year's theme is "Dragons, Dreams and Darling Deeds" and Steven Kellogg, a popular children's illustrator, created the artwork.

This cooperative was started in Minnesota in 1987, and it is a good example of ways librarians can work together to save money and create programs. Other states, like Massachusetts, have statewide cooperatives that work the same way — libraries pooling information and resources to expand their programs and introduce families all over the state to their local library and its summer activities.

Of course, there are many,

many libraries that are independently developing their own summer reading games and program themes. And they also put together simple or elaborate programs, celebrating the free hours and extended daylight children and parents enjoy during the summer.

The other component of summer programming is the entertainment. I recently went to something called the Performers' Showcase, which was held at the San Leandro Public Library. This one-day event provides an opportunity for librarians to watch shortened versions of performances for children and to meet the performers. It is a full and exhausting day, and a great idea.

Until I became a children's librarian, I hadn't realized just how much time and thought goes into scheduling these entertainers. Nor had I realized how many of them there are, although as the brochures started arriving in the mail in December, it was beginning to become clear to me. It is amazing to see the range of acts, all geared toward engaging and possibly even educating young children.

At the Showcase there were magicians, clowns, pigs (real

ones), a dog, musicians, puppeteers, more magicians, more puppeteers, storytellers and more. The audience was almost entirely made up of adults, with a handful of children, whom I assume had come with their parents. The children's reaction to the various acts wasn't always the same as the reaction of the adults and it was interesting to notice the differences.

I took lots of notes on the supplied brochures and fliers, but even so it has been a challenge to distinctly remember each act. And as I create my first summer program, I am conscious of trying to provide a summer library experience for all kinds of children. I want there to be the large-scale entertainment of a true puppet show, but also the simple and low-key experience of a musician and her instrument. I think it is exposure like this that gives each child a new view of the public library and an unforgettable experience.

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at jwinkelstein@acellib.org or at the Albany Library, 510-526-3720 ext. 20.

Vernal equinox hike set at Tilden

AS SPRINGTIME DRAWS NEARER, the parade of public programs continues at Tilden Regional Park's Environmental Education Center, where the staff is offering something for every age level and interest.

For example, ancient life will be the focus of a program from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, led by naturalist Jessica Sheppard. The group will walk the Tilden Nature Area to find plant and animal species that have survived since prehistoric times, such as ferns and some insects.

Papermaking will be the theme of a program from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. next Saturday, March 19, at the Education Center. Guided by interpretive student aide Gina Gargano, the group will recycle used paper into new journals. The program is designed for ages 7 to 11, and there's a \$3 fee. For more information, phone the EEC at 510-525-2233.

The vernal equinox will be celebrated at the center with a candle-making program scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, March 20, led by naturalist aide Salli Lundgren. Recycled wax will be used to produce candles the way it was done before electricity and mass production. March 20, when the day and night are of equal length, is the official first day of spring.

Then from 1 to 4 p.m. the same day, Sheppard will lead a 3.5-mile walk along Wildcat Creek to the site where a waterfall once flowed. The walk is free of charge. If you come along, pack water and a snack, and be prepared for muddy trails.

Tilden's EEC is at the north end of Central Park Drive, down the hill from Grizzly Peak Boulevard in Berkeley. Phone 510-525-2233 for more program information.

For a wildflower exploration somewhat farther afield, join Kristina Parkinson for a hike from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. this Saturday at Garin Regional Park in Hayward. Garin is hilly, so wear comfortable hiking boots. The program is for ages



PARK IT
Ned MacKay

6 and older. It's free of charge, but reservations are required. Phone 510-636-1684.

By the way, because of the heavy rains, this is supposed to be a banner year for wildflowers statewide. If you don't mind the driving, Anza-Borrego State Park and Death Valley National Park in Southern California have beautiful displays right now, which are expected to last through mid-March. Some high desert areas have flower displays now, and the show should last into early April, according to Steve Edwards, director of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden at Tilden. The garden itself is a good place to visit. There's almost always something in bloom there.

So near and yet so far — Brooks Island Regional Shoreline is only about a mile offshore from the Richmond Inner Harbor, but it is only accessible by watercraft and by reservation.

The island is a wildlife refuge with a colorful cultural history and panoramic views of the North Bay from its 159-foot summit.

Guided tours of Brooks Island are scheduled from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 9, through the Current Adventures kayaking outfitters, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 23, via California Canoe and Kayak.

Each trip costs \$85 per person (\$95 for nondistrict residents), and each is restricted to people 14 and older. Both trips include basic kayak instruction, the paddle out to the island, and a guided two-mile walk.

For more information and reservations, phone the Park District Reservations Department at 510-636-1684. Don't delay, the trips fill fast.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

The Albany Library's next program in the library service will be offered from 6-8 p.m. April 6. Registration required. Call 510-526-3720, ext. 5.

The Lawyer in the Library program offers free legal assistance and is offered at the Albany, Fremont Main and Castro Valley libraries. An attorney will define the patron's legal rights, outline options and get them with a solution, making a referral when needed. The consultations may be limited in time. Expect 20 minutes of discussion time.

The Albany Library, a branch of the Alameda County Library, is located at 1247 Marin Ave. For information on its services and

programs, call 510-526-3720 ext. 20.

Alice Wilson-Fried, author of "Menopause, Sisterhood, and Tennis: A Miraculous Journey Through 'The Change,'" will talk about her own personal solutions to the challenges of aging when she appears at the El Cerrito Library at 7 p.m. March 15.

Kirk Waller, master storyteller, will appear at 11 a.m. April 16, sponsored by the Friends of the El Cerrito Library.

Sally Lundgren, a naturalist aide from Tilden Park Nature Area, will come to the library at 11 a.m. March 19. She will bring some examples of local wildlife which may include "Rabbits, Turtles and Wiggly Snakes" (which

is the title of the program.) Children of all ages and their parents are welcome.

The library's "Pot O' Gold" Reading Club for children in first through sixth grade runs through March 17. Children can read 10 books and earn prizes.

Readers Anonymous, the library's book club, meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Copies of the current selection are available at the check-out desk. Next up: "When the Emperor Was Divine," by Julie Otsuka (March 22).

The El Cerrito Library, a branch of the Contra Costa County Library, is located at 6510 Stockton Ave. For more information, call 510-526-7512.

Master magician Alex Gonzalez will appear at the Kensington Library at 6:30 p.m. March 15 for "an evening of amazement." All ages are welcome. Free tickets are required and are available now.

Internationally acclaimed storyteller and artist Randel McGee will help the branch celebrate National Library Week as he portrays beloved storyteller Hans Christian Andersen, at 6:30 p.m. April 12. Both events are sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library.

The Kensington Library, a branch of the Contra Costa County Library, is at 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707-1098. Phone: 510-524-3043.

— Compiled by Deborah Byrd

ALBANY SCHOOL NOTES

Albany High School

Registration for the classes of 1993, 1994, and 1995 is scheduled for Saturday, March 12 at the DoubleTree Hotel at the Albany Marina. Information is available at julietuchung@albanyschools.org or at the reunion Web site at albanyschools.com.

The Shadow Day Committee is looking for mentors for students interested in graphic design and photography. Shadowing on March 16. Those who might be a fit for these roles should contact Sandy Benland at sbenland@yahoo.com or by e-mail at 510-237-7166. The Cruisers, the AHS parent patrol, is seeking volunteers for an event (or more) a week at lunchtime, usually 12:45 to 1:30 p.m. Anyone interested in helping to keep AHS safe should e-mail Principal Ron at albanyschools.com.

Those looking for an alternative to the 2005 Bay Area Agriculture Exposition will be held

Friday, April 8, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the SF Civic Auditorium. Details are available from Ms. Sumberg or at www.CalApprenticeship.org. For Scrip orders, contact Norm Roseman, 510-558-0418, norm@normski.com.

Albany Middle School

The DVDs from Mr. Gamba's summer drama camp are now available in Room AHS 9. The newly reduced price is \$10.

The Academic Support Program offers students assistance with their studies and homework. The tutors are paid or volunteers. All students are welcome to attend, but must be serious about improving their studies. The atmosphere of the sessions is serious and quiet, but at the same time pleasant and friendly. Session dates are March 22-May 19 (eight weeks), Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 - 5 p.m. in the AMS Library. Registration forms are available in the AMS office. Cost for the 8 week session is \$120. This program is sponsored by the University Village/U.C. Berkeley. Information is available from Dara Birnbaum, Director of Youth Services, 510-526-2043.

March 16: School Site Council, 6 p.m., Library
March 22: eighth-grade Panoramic Picture, 1:30 p.m.
March 23: AMS faculty vs. eighth grade basketball game, 2:30 p.m.
March 25: Minimum day - dismissal at 12:30
March 28 - April 1: Spring break - no school

Marin Elementary School

Principal Marian Rothchild has received the Region 6 Administrator of the Year Award and will be recognized at a statewide banquet in Napa on April 8. The Parent Education Committee presents "Children and Media: How Much Is Too Much 'Screen' Time?" This discussion, featuring Abby Metcalfe, MFCC, MBA, takes place on Wed., March 16, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Multi-Use Room.
March 11: Garden Day, 10 a.m. - p.m.
March 16: PTA meeting, 8:30-10 a.m.
April 14: PTA meeting, 8:30-8 p.m.
To receive the daily bulletin and important announcements by e-mail, contact Kym Stemer at kymstemer@earthlink.net.

Ocean View Elementary

The Ocean View e-tree is accessible with an e-mail to OceanView-subscribe@yahoo.com.

AUSD

The monthly Parent Support Group Meeting sponsored by the Drug and Alcohol Task Force is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23 at 1080 Cornell Avenue at 7 p.m. Information is available from Susan Cinelli at 510-334-5924 or scinelli@sbcsdglobal.net.
March 15: Special School Board meeting, Cornell School, 7:30 p.m.
March 22: Regular School Board meeting, Cornell School, 7:30 p.m.
District information is available at: <http://www.albany.k12.ca.us>

Got items? Contact Bob Menzies two weeks in advance at 510-528-2077 or megabob@pacbell.net.

EL CERRITO SCHOOL NOTES

Harding Elementary

Harding Goes Hollywood auction — 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Fairmont Elementary School Multipurpose Room Stockton at Lexington, next to the El Cerrito Library. A fun-filled evening for the family has delicious food, a silent auction of items donated by local merchants, and a live auction of celebrity items. Proceeds support PTA-sponsored programs at Harding Elementary such as Berkeley Rep in the classroom, art classes, music instruction, Pops in the Schools, and science assemblies. Details online at www.hardingpta.org.

Portola Middle School

Portola's Music Department is having its Jazz Explosion V concert featuring guests from Tower of Power, Mickey Gillette, Marco Russo, and Larry Williams, joined by Frank Martin on keyboard. They will perform with the Portola Middle School Jazz Band, Jazz Workshop, Jazz Combo and Latin Jazz Ensemble in the Knox Performing Arts Center at Contra Costa College in San Pablo at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 24. This is Portola's major music fund-raiser; proceeds will finance the band's trip to the Reno Jazz Festival in April. Tickets are only \$15 and are available by contacting Lynn Chung at chungl@acellib.org or 510-236-5637 or from Shoko Kiyono at skiyono@aol.com or 510-236-5736.

El Cerrito High School

The ECHS book club, Page Turners will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday in room 604. This book group has been meeting for several years and is for students, parents and teachers. If you've

never been, come check it out. You can be a student without an accompanying parent or a parent without an accompanying child. Meetings usually last an hour. On the 16th we'll be discussing "Funny in Farsi" by Firoozeh Dumas. If you have questions, contact Paula Gocker at 524-9560.

Wish lists: Mr. Cohn in room 702 is wishing for fish food and fish for his room's tank. Fresh water, no cichlids. Mr. Mason in room 812 is wishing for Spanish-language videos, cartoons, books and Latin American art, books, and travel posters. If you can help either teacher, call 510-525-0234.

On St. Patrick's Day, Thursday, the Symphonic Band and Concert Band will put on a special pops show. The concert will feature some of the great music that has come from films. It will be a special night with guest conductor Karla Lemon, who conducted at Stanford University for 10 years. She now travels the world freelancing as a conductor. One of the highlights of the concert will be a premiere of ECHS student Alex Pfeiffer-Rosenblum's new work for band, entitled "Rising Tides." It's a beautiful new piece that is very unique and dramatic. Ane Mara Fox, a professional trombone player and teacher, will be sitting in with the band while Alex conducts his piece. This concert will be a special fund-raiser for the department. Admission is \$10.

On March 22, several members of the Symphonic Band will be participating in the All-District Band. The concert will be held at the Richmond Auditorium and will start at 7:30.

On April 8, the Gaucha Marching Band will hold its Gala Awards Night at the Kensington Youth Hut.

— Source: El Cerrito school e-mail trees

Garage

PAGE A1

Attempting to place the garage at Cerrito Plaza a quarter of a way from the El Cerrito BART parking station was a compromise. BART prohibited garage on its property and Measure C language prevented the city from using that for projects other than parking.

"It was never an ideal project," Potter said.

Though the city will never recover the great amount of staff time dedicated to the project, the county is reimbursing the city for nearly \$200,000 in expenses related to the garage, Hanin and Oshinsky said.

Resident Peter Loubal said he believed the city's cost for pursuing the garage was \$500,000. He was shocked by the amount,

he said.

"Please get the developer to sit down with neighbors to hammer out what's acceptable," said Loubal, "because the garage may not be the end of it."

After the meeting, several residents said city officials had struck a conciliatory tone and

seemed like they would be more willing to work with residents on the plaza housing proposal.

"I feel more optimistic now," said Charles Burress, a member of the Plaza Neighbors group.

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SCHOOLS



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Pre-Algebra and Algebra I are offered in the eighth grade. St. Lawrence O'Toole also offers physical education classes, vocal music, and band. Extra-Curricular Activities include CYO basketball, volleyball, cross country, and track. Students are encouraged to become a part of Student Government and the Traffic Squad. We welcome new students to our school community. Testing of new students Grades 1-7:

THE NEXT SCHOOL AND PROGRAM
PAGE WILL PUBLISH APRIL 8
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Aurora Schools

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As we pursue our mission guided by the values at the Bentley education. These define and sustain our tradition, illuminate our future endeavors. Integrity- the upholding of honor and compassion.

Excellence- our comprehensive curriculum and academic promote a life long pursuit of learning.

Courage- we provide an environment that allows students to take on and confront challenges in creative ways. Ingenuity- we encourage students to explore their individual talents, provoke a willingness to accept critical thought.

Inclusion- we are a community representing diverse backgrounds and experiences. We strive for respect and compassionate relationships with students, teachers and parents.

communities and 55% from European descent families. The application continues through mid-January. We are able to learn about the school through Open Houses, tours and receptions. For more information visit our website at www.rdschool.org or call Shoba Balasubramanian at 534.0804 ext. 224.

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PROGRAMS

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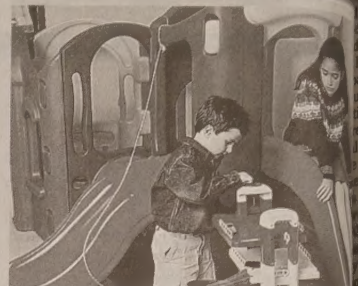
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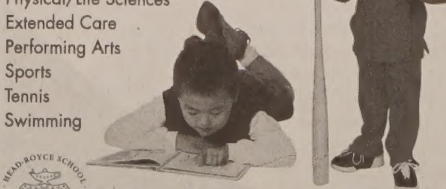
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And so, the Golden Gate Boys Choir offers rehearsals in San Francisco, Oakland and Hayward. The organization sponsors annually a Christmas Concert, the old English Christmas Feast, a Bell Spectacular Concert and two Spring Concerts. A summer music camp is held in August at the Diocesan Youth Retreat Center in Lafayette.

Boys, age seven and older with unchanged voices can attend a rehearsal as a participant or observer and try out or "audition" for the choir at the same time. For further information, please call the GGBC office at (510) 887-4311.

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At Community School the arts are an integral part of our students' lives. Our arts program includes visual art, drama, dance, video, and music. Learning at Community School extends beyond the classroom with community service and outdoor education.

We are currently accepting applications for the 2005-2006 school year. There are limited 7th grade openings available for the current year. We welcome you to come and visit our school. Please call for our schedule and information, 510-923-0505 or visit our website cseb.org, 215 Ridgeway Ave., Oakland, CA 94611

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Internet becomes essential to politics

By Tom Lochner
STAFF WRITER

Internet has become a pillar of the American democracy, converting from the traditional news, a study published Sunday shows.

It has become a formidable tool, fund-raising, organizing, and even running for office, a phenomenon that took off in the last national election cycle, according to the Pew Research Center for the People and the Pew Internet and Life Project.

But it would have had a different impact, said El Cerrito artist Duffy, who served on the committee of East Bay for the 2004 presidential campaign, a Democratic former Verano Howard Dean.

The Pew study credits the campaign with a series of moves such as news-pegged "meetings," one-on-one local gatherings, the spread of Web logs or "interactive Internet" forums, and even the use of e-mail financing; and decen-

tralized decision-making.

The campaign drew millions of people, including many minorities and women, the elderly and the young into active participation into the political process. One was Duffy, a "complete political neophyte" who "voted, but that's it."

She was "shocked into activism" by the Florida voting fiasco in the 2000 presidential election that culminated in the U.S. Supreme Court declaring George W. Bush the winner.

It got her onto the Internet, and from there into the streets, she said. She began studying the flow of campaign money and soon was looking up the location of peace marches in the days before the Iraq war. "It was a translation of Internet activism into physical activism," Duffy said. "It literally went from cyberspace to the streets, and that was a worldwide phenomenon."

The Pew study credits Dean's early, pre-primary successes to his former campaign manager, Joe Trippi. Duffy agrees.

"Trippi was wise to the Internet; Dean was a Luddite (when it came to the Internet)," Duffy said, adding it was Trippi who saw the nexus between the Internet and the town hall or neighbor-

hood meetings that are the tradition in Dean's New England.

The Dean campaign fizzled, Duffy said, because "this idea of going back to a neighbor-to-neighbor campaign was too scary and revolutionary for the Democratic Party, which has largely relied on unions and other big organizing groups," Duffy said.

Yet only months later, both the Bush and Kerry campaigns used Dean innovations, the Pew study found. Both appealed to millions of subscribers to their e-mail lists, Kerry primarily for fund-raising and Bush for grass-roots organizing and mobilization.

San Ramon vice mayor David Hudson, a registered Republican, said the Internet has developed into a sort of "21st century television" in national and other large-scale elections, but at the local level, it is not a big factor — at least yet.

"I don't think the Internet has passed even signs in local elections at this point," Hudson said. "Will it change in this (2005) election? I don't think so. But four years from now, it may well."

For now at least, the issues that generate the most passion will bring out people regardless of the Internet, Hudson said.

Students to vote on health care fee

By Matt Krupnick
STAFF WRITER

Berkeley students will vote on whether to pay a new on-campus health care fee.

The three-day online vote, begins Tuesday, will determine if all students pay \$43 per semester to improve services at the Tang Center, which provides the university's health care. The measure has a simple majority to pass, at least 20 percent of the student body.

The new funds would replace lost through budget cuts and compensate for rising health costs. The Tang Center has doctors, nurses and nurse practitioners and more than \$2 million in funding during the past year, said Claudia Covello, the center's clinical-services director.

Medical problems have forced the center to cut urgent-care doctor appointments and mental-health services, she said.

But the students are going

to have to decide how they want to pay for health care," Covello said. "I'm very concerned because they need health care and counseling."

Students, who are required to have insurance, paid 82,000 visits to Tang Center doctors, nurses, psychiatrists, counselors and therapists in the 2003-04 school year, officials said. Most visits are covered by existing student fees, while specialist visits, prescriptions, X-rays and some other services cost extra.

At least four of the nine other University of California campuses have student-approved health fees.

With more students every year requesting mental-health counseling and medical services, affordable university health care is essential, said 2004 UC Berkeley alumna Temina Madon, who has led the campaign for the new fee.

"I think universities have an obligation to provide health care to students, because no one else is going to do it," she said.

Overall student fees have steadily climbed the past three

years, but 51 percent of Cal students surveyed in October said they would prefer to pay a flat per-semester health fee, compared with 22 percent who would rather pay a per-use toll at the Tang Center. Few students seem to oppose the new fee, but some have complained online about it.

"Providing directed fees gives the university that much more incentive to yank general funding," wrote an anonymous student on the Beetle Beat Weblog. "There won't actually be any more money available for health services."

Prodigy

FROM PAGE A1

tumbled into bed at the end of a long day.

The next morning she went back to San Francisco State for the finals of the San Francisco Young Pianists Competition. She won that, too — the youngest winner in the history of the event.

This Sunday she will reap one of the rewards of winning when Maestro Eylar conducts her and the California Youth Symphony at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center, playing Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 in E. The program will be repeated the following Sunday at Flint Center in Cupertino.

Juliann, a sophomore at Albany High, has been winning these things since she was 5, when she took first place in the U.S. Open Piano Competition.

That was followed by victories in the Camino Youth Symphony Concerto Competition, state Bartok Competition, Menuhin Dowling Young Musicians' Competition, California Association of Professional Music Teachers Young Pianists Competition, Etude Club of Berkeley Young Artist Competition, and the state level of the Music Teachers of North America Competition. She has also been chosen by the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra as a "Debut Artist" for the 2004-2005 season.

It all started when she was 4, when she started bugging her mom, Jennifer, a gifted amateur pianist, to give her lessons. "I said, 'No, you are too little to learn,' but she kept begging me," said Jennifer. "So I taught her a couple of songs, and she did very well."

Within a year she had learned all her mom had to teach her, so she began studying with a series of professional teachers — Rosalinda Gutman, Jed Galant,

Sharon Mann, and Hans Boepfle — who did their best to hone what was clearly an extraordinary talent.

"She has both an amazing technical ability and a highly attuned musical spirituality," said Eylar. "She really plays with great artistry."

Juliann did lose one competition when she was 7. That morning, her hamster, Tiger, bit her on the middle finger of her right hand. By the time she went on stage, the finger was throbbing.

"I played OK, but it was stiff and without emotion," she said. Tiger was sent packing soon after, replaced by an ever-growing collection of stuffed animals.

Music isn't Juliann's only talent. She has been drawing even longer than she has been playing the piano — first with felt tip pens, then pencils, now oil paints. One of her drawings, a witty caricature of an octopus playing the piano, graces the cover of the San Francisco Young Pianists' Competition program every year.

"There are times when I'm playing that I think it might be useful to have a few extra limbs," she explained.

She is also a dispassionate critic of her own performance.

"I need to work on my left hand. It's not as fast as my right."

I also have a tendency to think too much when I'm feeling stressed with a whole lot of other stuff, and I lose my focus."

For all her gifts, Juliann is a modest young woman who long ago made her parents put away most of her trophies. There isn't room for them, anyway, since the living room in their house is taken up by pianos: Juliann's Yamaha grand and her mom's old spinet, which, says Juliann, "is so old, it sounds more like a harpsichord."

She's also a regular 15-year old, with a passion for reading — especially Harry Potter — Oprah, swimming, ballet and Taiwanese entertainment shows on Channel 26.

But her greatest love always has been and always will be music.

"Sound has always been a friend to me because it's so different from any of the other senses. It allows me to explore my own soul and express stuff that people usually don't talk about, except maybe in their diaries. It's really cool. I like it a lot."

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or e-mail msnapp@cctimes.com.

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Bryan Nies, Guest Conductor
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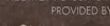
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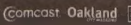
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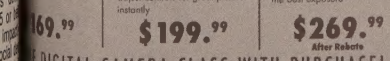


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MARK DUFRÉNE/STAFF

Fairmount makeover

A NEW and improved Fairmount Avenue between Richmond Street and San Pablo Avenue has been largely completed, said El Cerrito planning manager Jennifer Carman. New street lights, furniture, trees, landscaping, decorative sidewalk paving and a four-way signal at Liberty Street and Fairmount Avenue were installed in the \$1.8 million project. In addition, the street was narrowed at some points and utilities were placed underground. The project was largely paid for through grants, along with a \$423,000 contribution from the city.

West Contra Costa District readies for job

By Shirley Dang
STAFF WRITER

The West Contra Costa school board has voted to cut the equivalent of more than 100 jobs the next school year in order to meet state layoff notice deadlines.

If approved in June as part of the 2005-06 budget, the reductions would eliminate 24 elementary school teachers and eight administrators and reduce hours for secondary positions in band, art and dance.

However, the school board voted Monday to save six elementary school music positions in light of an improving financial outlook.

"We're very excited," said music teacher Janis Lieberman. "We're happy that for the first time in several years we don't have to cut one of our most important programs."

Besides elementary school teacher layoffs, the board approved trimming 31 middle school and 29 high school teaching positions.

The cuts come as part of nearly \$2.8 million in possible reductions for next school year, down from \$8 million estimated early last month. Spending is projected at nearly \$274 million for 2005-06, nearly 1 percent more than this year's adopted budget of \$271 million.

The school board does not need to approve a budget until June 30, but it must notify teachers of layoff plans by March 15. One significant change this year is the comparatively short list.

"We got it down to essentially

IF YOU GO

The West Contra Costa school board is expected to discuss budget cuts for 2005-06 at 6:30 p.m. on March 16 at Lovonya DeJean Middle School, 3400 Macdonald Ave. in Richmond.

the bare minimum," said board member Dave Brown. Depending on the governor's budget, things could improve even more, he said. "We're doing our best to find

savings in the budget to preserve as many programs as possible. But there are still cuts on the table, and we're not to where we want to be," Brown said.

Teacher reductions are partly due to an anticipated drop in enrollment. Administrators estimate 822 fewer full-time students will show up next school year.

Classes also will be filled to contract limits to increase efficiency, which would reduce the number of teachers needed. In

addition, 18 professors will receive layoff notices. Paul Ehara, district administrator, said the elimination of literacy and counseling services is a difficult decision, but the district is committed to efficiency. Reach Shirley Dang at 2798 or sdang@...

Richmond asked to review, then raze

■ Residents push for required studies before demolishing sites where toxics were created or stored

By Rebecca Rosen Lum
STAFF WRITER

When Zeneca Corp. leveled 40 buildings on what would become the Campus Bay site, clouds of dust billowed into the air, settling on roads, buildings and autos downwind.

That unnerved those who worked for neighboring businesses because for decades, toxic chemicals, including the caustic and potentially explosive titanium tetrachloride, had been manufactured, mixed and stored in those structures.

Sherry Padgett, chief financial officer at nearby Kray Cabling, has wondered whether breathing that dust led to the rare cancers that have ravaged her.

The city permit to raze the structures and haul away the debris is a 5-by-8-inch card with little explanation and no reference to the plant's history or status as a Superfund site. Clearing the site was a four-year job that ended in 2002.

Padgett joined about 30 other residents two weeks ago to plead with the Richmond City Council to require a thorough environmental review before they demolish structures in which toxics were once made or stored.

Council members balked at adopting the ordinance, co-sponsored by Gayle McLaughlin and Tom Butt, fearing lack of authority and increased liability. Councilman Jim Rogers said the language was so broad as to include homeowners who may inadvertently be storing caustic substances.

A committee including McLaughlin and Butt, chief building inspector Fred Clement, the city engineer, fire marshal and environmental planners are retooling the draft. They found no precedent, Clement said.

"There were some specific issues with the ordinance language

that had to be better defined," said City Manager Bill Lindsay. "So a can of paint in a garage wouldn't trigger (an environmental) review, for instance."

"This is a very simple ordinance — an important ordinance," McLaughlin said. "I think we have an obligation to the citizens whose safety we protect."

The issue "is neither complex nor abstruse," Butt said.

"The city issues only a few demolition and grading permits annually, maybe half a dozen each," he said. "Of those, even fewer, if any, might qualify for (an environmental report) review. Apparently, it would not involve a lot of work, but if it would stop one bad project, it would be worth it."

In considering such an ordinance, Richmond appears to be ahead of the curve.

State law governing demolition of structures addresses only lead and asbestos content and removal, said Angela Blanchette, spokeswoman for the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

A year-old law requires the California Integrated Waste Management Board to help cities develop demolition procedures — but only with reduction, reuse and recycling of building materials. Several cities and a few counties, including Contra Costa, have sought that help.

The gap is particularly glaring in Richmond, where a dense concentration of heavy industries once cranked out pesticides, resins, sheet metal, transformers and chemical compounds.

Two blocks from the residential Parchester Village stands a blue corrugated steel structure that once housed a chemical plant — one of four on the site slated for demolition in the coming weeks.

Many other Richmond industrial names connect with toxic concerns.

Airco Industrial Gases, Bio-Rad Laboratories, Chevron Chemical, Great Western Chemical Corp., Henkel Process Chemical, Koppers Chemical, Marwais Steel, Myers Container Corp., Pa-

cific Rim Packaging steel drum manufacture, Paktank Corp. bulk chemical, Unitank Terminal Service bulk chemical storage, United Heckathorn, Wilco (also known as U.S. Peroxygen) have done or continue to do business here.

State and federal environmental agency reports identify all of them as among the area's worst polluters.

The State Department of Fish and Game has linked toxic pollution in the Bay to declining fish and wildlife populations.

"I don't know how many properties this will affect, per se, but Richmond does have a substantial history of industrial manufacturing, which has left behind potential hazardous substances," McLaughlin said.

"Many of these old industrial sites were located in low-income areas of the city. Therefore, this becomes an environmental justice concern as well."

Reach Rebecca Rosen Lum at 510-262-2713 or rrosenlum@cc-times.com.

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Albany High sets Diversity Week program

A program to encourage diversity on the Albany High School campus will begin with an international potluck at 6:30 p.m. March 24. A discussion begins at 7 p.m. and will include students, faculty, parents, staff and Darrick Smith, founder of Oakland Tech's successful TRYUMF (Trying to Uplift My Folks) Program, which encourages kids from all cultures to enjoy learning. Topics to be addressed include, "What's working at AHS (Diversity Week, student culture clubs, and more)." "How can we close the achievement gap?" and "What do we need to change?"

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Risk-takers pump up ARMs

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ting even hotter. There's a natural urge
to yesterday's superlow
rates, even as they drift

adjustable-rate mortgages —
known as ARMs — allow
lenders to make the cheap-
est loans a bit longer.
Lenders see 4.2 percent in-
terest on a one-year term vs. 5.6
percent on a 30-year fixed con-
tract, their choice seems

they are expected to grab 40
percent of the mortgage market
by 2005, but that scenario could
change as the Federal

Reserve Bank with short-term in-
terest rates to curb inflation in an
economy. Meanwhile,
lenders, faced with
strong demand for refinanc-
ing, are making choices to give
borrowers more ways to keep
payments manageable.

The home-loan market is ex-
pected to grow this year to a pro-
jected \$3.7 trillion, a dramatic in-
crease from \$3.7 trillion peak in

2000. The market now is only about 50
percent of the market now. A cou-
ple of years ago, it was 75 percent -
said Marie R. Jones,

president of Wisconsin Mortgage
Association and chief ex-
ecutive of Paragon Home
Mortgage in Brookfield, Wis.
"We're seeing less of the
market this year," she

said. "Consumers are more in-
formed and getting more adven-
turous." ARMs are alluring but
risky.

Unlike unwavering fixed-rate
loans, when an adjustable-rate
mortgage's term expires, the in-
terest rate can climb - sometimes
steeply.

Typically, adjustments don't
rise more than two percentage
points at a time, lenders say. But
a 4.2 percent loan suddenly
swelling to a 6.2 percent loan
could wreak havoc on a house-
hold budget.

A growing number of borrow-
ers judge it worth the risk. ARMs
represented about one-third of
last year's mortgage market.

Paul Merski, chief economist
with Independent Community
Bankers of America, predicted a
40 percent market share this year.

Merski sees a sharp trajectory
ahead for adjustable-rate deals -
shooting to 5.3 percent by year's
end for the one-year plan, for in-
stance.

"But these are still extremely
attractive rates," he noted in a
Jan. 19 Web cast press confer-
ence. In the nation's moderate
midsection, some lenders say
borrowers have thrown off cau-
tion to embrace ARMs. The
switch is due to sheer dollars and
sense, Jones said.

"Right now, I have a three-
year (ARM) for 4.5 percent.
That's a good percentage (point)
different than the 30-year. Espe-
cially if you're not planning to
be in the home long, why pay
higher interest?"

ARMs allow lower monthly
payments, enabling people to
buy a bigger or more luxurious
house, said Dirk Todd, president
of both Red Letter Mortgage in
Madison, Wis., and the Wisconsin
Association of Mortgage Brokers.

"In some cases, that's the only
thing that qualifies them" for a
loan, he added. Stephen R.
LaDue, president of Affiliated
Mortgage & Financial Corp. in
Wauwatosa, Wis., said, "The five-
to seven-year mortgage is a bet-
ter reflection of how we live.
We're a mobile society; in five to
seven years, most people move
or refinance."

Even so, LaDue doesn't en-
vision a wholesale shift from fixed-
rate to adjustable-rate mortgages.

"Once the spread is .75 percent
or better, it's a viable move. But un-
til we start getting over 7 percent in-
terest rates, it won't be an ARM
market."

Cathy Savaglio, senior loan offi-
cer at Ideal Financial Services
Corp. in Brookfield, sees 5 percent
as a decision-making threshold.

"It's probably 50-50 at this
point, in terms of customers seeing
ARMs as an option. But if the
ARM rate goes higher than 5 per-
cent, well, you can still get a 30-
year fixed for not much more."

For lots of people, "not much
more" is not a compelling phrase.
"Much less" is what they have
grown accustomed to, as the na-
tion's key 30-year mortgage rate
descended in fits and spurts from
8 percent in 2000 to the 5 percent
range in mid-2003, a low last
available in the 1960s.

Real Estate Spotlight:

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A master suite features more bay views as well as a sitting area, his and her dressing rooms, and a beautifully remodeled master bath. Other amenities include a wine cellar, dual laundry facilities, and a newly built two-car garage with a second level. The home is a 10-mile drive from San Francisco financial district and is in an area with outstanding public schools.

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THIS GRACEFUL FOUR-BEDROOM, THREE-AND-ONE-HALF-BATH French Provincial style home at 65 Wyngaard Ave. in Piedmont has great street presence and a fabulous entry through a dramatic foyer with two-story curved staircase and elegant wrought-iron banister. The spacious light-filled living room has a beautiful fireplace with marble surround and hearth, and French doors that open to a slate terrace for outdoor entertaining. Large double doors lead from the foyer to the formal dining room, which is ideal for casual dining or gracious entertaining. The kitchen has a gas range, built-in banquet and direct access to the back yard. Two upstairs bedrooms have filtered bay views. The sunny backyard has an aggregate patio, a lawn and garden. Additional features include: Beautiful hardwood floors — many recently refinished; wonderful architectural detail with Art Deco accents; great indoor-outdoor living; main level bedroom and bath; master bedroom suite; ideally located on a lovely street in a desirable neighborhood; convenient commute location; partial basement with storage space; detached garage; washer, dryer, stove and refrigerator are included.

Offered at \$1,695,000

Agent: Dian Hymer, Coldwell Banker 510-339-4777. Photo tour at: dianhymer.com.

Seminars on tap in Berkeley, San Francisco

MAISON NOUVEAU
Maison Nouveau will host two home sellers seminars in Berkeley and San Francisco.

These seminars are a chance to learn about the real estate market's selling processes and will feature:

- A brief overview of current Bay Area real estate market
- The importance of hiring a real estate agent

- Your property's value and achieving top dollar
- Preparing your home for sale
- Staging its benefits
- Understanding the ins and outs of inspections and disclosures
- Buying or selling first?
- Using the equity in your current home to purchase a new home.
- Getting a home equity loan - includes a discussion with Maison Nouveau Mortgage consultants.

- How long it takes to sell your home
 - Reviewing offers.
- The first session will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, March 15 at 2701 College Ave. in Berkeley to learn more, call 510-849-9900. The second session is scheduled for 6:30 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, March 16 at 2420 Polk St. in San Francisco. To learn more, call 415-922-8800.

The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS

NEW LISTING

951 Sunnyhills Road, Crocker Highlands

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Beautifully refurbished Tudor home in great location! Four bedrooms upstairs, two and one half baths. New gourmet kitchen level to artfully landscaped garden & patio. New French paneled windows. Near shops and weekend Farmer's Market.

Offered at \$1,175,000

JUDITH CAIN
339.0400/209
cain@grubbco.com
GRUBBCO.COM

Visit GRUBBCO.COM for Photo Tours of this and other current listings.

Wonderful Oakland Opportunity
2580 Tunnel Road, Oakland
Quiet, Private and Easily Buildable!

This wonderful, quiet, 23 acre, easy-to-build lot is located just above the Caldecott Tunnel on the quiet side of the street. This lot has plans for a 2900+ sq. ft. home, which has gone through and was approved by design review and was half way through the planning commission review 9 months ago. The property has a title 24 report, geotechnical, engineering and environmental impact report, structural calculations and soil reports. The plans are of a lovely stucco two-story home with two-car garage. The home would have a view of the bay from the second floor. The property is located just off of Tunnel Rd. across from the original Caldecott monument (small concrete market with a flagpole) on a cul-de-sac type of turn off making an easy building site. The current owner has received bids of around \$150.00/square foot to build. Seller has been relocated.

Offered at \$375,000

Ann Sharf
Office: 925-253-2525 Cell: 925-200-0222
E mail: ann@annsharf.com
Website: Annsharf.com

Village

The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS

NEW LISTING

Sotelo Avenue, Piedmont

COMING SOON. An exquisite Piedmont colonial, located in a gorgeous neighborhood of spacious homes. This lovely home has five bedrooms, four + baths plus an elegant library and family room, gracious gardens and views of Lake Tyson.

Price Upon Request

ELIZABETH DICKSON
339.0400/218
dickson@grubbco.com
GRUBBCO.COM

Visit GRUBBCO.COM for Photo Tours of this and other current listings.

OPEN SUNDAY 2:00 - 4:00

291 Purdue Ave. Kensington

Rare upper Kensington duplex corner, delightful sun filled split level traditional bedroom one bath Bay View. Fully legal non conforming one bedroom.

Offered at \$1,195,000

RE/MAX EXECUTIVE **527-8545** **Ury Beary**
urybeary@comcast.net Broker Associate

TWO WONDERFUL CONDOS

Open Sunday 12-3 pm

1814 Blake St. #2 - Berkeley

New Listing! Utterly charming and adorable condo in well-maintained 4 unit building. This special 1 bedroom really feels like a home with your own private deck overlooking a lush, beautiful backyard. Updated kitchen & bath, warm colors, cozy fireplace & hardwood floors. Close to Berkeley Bowl, farmers market, BART, and downtown.

Offered at \$340,000

220 Caldecott Ln. #307 - Berkeley

"The Parkwoods"
New Listing! Beautiful, Rare Top Floor 2 bedroom, 2 bath "Piedmont" model ceilings. Pretty, quiet hill and views. 2 separate master bedroom suites. 2 Balconies + 2 garage parking spaces. This is truly a lovely unit worth seeing!

Offered at \$519,000

Visit a photo tour of these great condos at www.berkhills.com

Denise Milburn
"Condominium Specialist"
510-410-2424
dmlburn@yahoo.com

www.berkhills.com ■ **510.524.9888**

160 Alvarado

COMING SOON IN APRIL

Architect Designed by Noble Newsom in 1940

- 4 Bedrooms, 3 1/2 Baths
- Above The Claremont Hotel
- Large Level Lot

\$1,395,000

Julie Nachtwey
www.julienachtwey.com
510.540.8743

PAC UN
GMA

875 Arlington Ave., Berkeley

OPEN SUNDAY 2-5

This ± 4000 sq. ft. Arts & Crafts masterpiece by noted architect Ratcliff Jr. is a truly special home, beautifully maintained and located on a .28 acre parcel with Golden Gate views includes a separate residence providing a rare opportunity to request.

Offered at \$1,195,000

Kelly Deal
Office 899.8000 Ext. 311
Cell 510.464.4000
www.apr.com

apr.com / Montclair Village/6116 La Salle Ave., 2nd Floor / 510.899.9800

The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS

SOLD

406 43rd Street, Oakland

This turn-of-the-century Temescal Craftsman five-unit home was recently sold with multiple offers. Originally offered at \$750,000

Represented the Buyers

COLETTE FORD
510.823.5735

FORD/PLOWRIGHT
510.652.2133/471
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Looking a look around the East Bay real estate community

BY BOBBIE RIED
 and information for and
 the real estate commu-
 nity and related industries
 THE PUBLIC

the National Association of Re-
 sponse. The organization is dedi-
 cated to preserving, promoting and
 housing opportunities for
 Americans. NAR is one of five
 organizations on the Alliance's
 of directors. This will ensure
 have a seat at the table
 decisions are made con-
 sidering national housing policy. To
 more about NAR visit
 nare.org.

Alameda Museum offers loca-
 tion. See "The East Bay
 and Now" based on a new
 by Dennis Evanovsky and Eric
 7 p.m., Thursday, March 31.
 s' lecture last year called
 s' Crypts was presented to a
 room-only audience.
 of the coffee table books,
 70 pairs of photos (many
 will be available at the
 . The authors will sign book
 after the lecture and slide
 Call 510-748-0796 or check
 alamedamuseum.org.

ever thought of career
 estate or mortgage? Learn
 Career Night sponsored by
 Area Real Estate Ladies &
 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday,
 11, at the Hilltop Mall. A new
 school will be discussed. Call
 510-527-8752 to reserve a seat.

help with moving? Do you
 of cleaning to do before
 Cal Smooth Move. Sort-
 ing, packing and sur-
 equals start to finish help.
 stress by getting an esti-
 510-527-8752.

handy around the house
 to learn how, the Building
 Center in Berkeley is the
 you. BEC provides ongo-
 ing, lectures and events for
 experienced and those new to
 ing and renovation. Topics
 power tools, concrete work,
 plumbing, interior design,
 and solar electricity, to
 a few. You can call the
 for class information and cost.
 510-527-8752 or visit the Web
 www.bec.org.

ing? The "Early Retirement
 Selling Options" sem-
 inar is a free information
 sessionizing to condo living,
 of the capital gains tax
 planning will be dis-
 The class is scheduled 11
 12:30 p.m., Saturday, March
 12, at the Hilltop Mall. To learn more
 510-527-8752.

Homeownership help is
 Many cities conduct pro-
 for first time homebuyers.
 payment and closing cost as-
 sistance is possible as long as
 is available. To find out what
 offers check with your
 Realtor.

Your Home Team Ad-
 vantage (a group of professionals
 in mortgage, insurance, ti-
 tle, real estate are teaming up to
 presenters are from Wells
 Fargo, Bank of America, and
 Title Company. The seminar
 cover First-time, Next and
 repeat buying. Each attendee
 will receive a free credit report and gift.
 Call the next class by calling
 510-527-8752.

they're off! The Women's
 of Realtors East Bay Chap-
 ter is having a "Day At The Races". The
 event is 1 to 4 p.m., Wednesday,
 March 16. Enjoy a buffet lunch and
 with hundreds of other real
 estate professionals at Bay Mead-
 ows in the Turf Club.
 Call Jacobson at 510-338-1309.

WCR
 The Women's Council of Real-
 estate Bay Chapter monthly Busi-
 ness Breakfast Series is
 on March 17. The meeting
 will be networking at 8:30 a.m.
 in the Buttercup Kitchen,
 1000 Broadway in Oakland. Hear a
 real estate legal update with
 Patricia Hutchinson, Assistant Gen-
 eral Counsel of CAR. For ticket
 information call WCR President,
 Mary Fawcett at 510-967-6661 or Ele-
 ction.com.

Business Tips
 Real Estate Online Magazine is avail-
 able to help with your real estate
 business. Each month there is new
 information at the website www.real-
 estateonline.com. You'll find tips on
 how a broker opens, proving your
 worth and much more. You can also
 get a business tips newsletter
 directly to your e-mail box.

Real Estate License
 The state regulations now make
 it easier to get a broker's

license. Attendees will learn changes
 and revisions, math shortcuts and
 test tips. Receive live class test
 preparation with instructor Minnie
 Lueh. For more information call Ex-
 ecutive Programs at 1-800-416-1996.

WHO?

■ Speaking of the museum se-
 ries, the "Then And Now" slide
 show and lecture is underwritten by
 Realtor Janelle Spatz of Bayside
 Real Estate. Spatz is also a board

member of the Alameda Architec-
 tural Preservation Society.

■ Office manager Bev Muncer
 of Coldwell Banker Oakland-Pied-
 mont announced a new team mem-
 ber. Muncer welcomes Sales Associ-
 ate Leslie Wei. She will specialize

in residential sales in Alameda,
 Emeryville, Oakland and Piedmont.

■ Doesn't it always seem that
 the most successful folks are the
 busiest? Mortgage Consultant Kim
 McGuire Reid of Jetstream Mort-

gage stepped up to the plate when
 called. She was elected the 2005
 Treasurer of the Women's Council
 of Realtors East Bay Chapter. She's
 reachable at 510-444-2165.

I'll announce your news item in
 this column if you send it to me. In-
 formation deadline is two weeks be-
 fore the event. Send an email to
 bobbieried@mindspring.com. Fax
 your info to me at 510-441-7191.

3 New Listings



3219 MONO AVE., EL CERRITO

#63 - Great opportunity for investor or
 owner occupy. Large living room
 w/ fireplace. Dining room w/ built-in hutch.
 Eat-in kitchen. Spacious 1 bed in-law
 downstairs w/ separate entrance.
 Convenient location. Close to BART.
\$679,900



GREAT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY!

#46 - Large size hair and beauty salon,
 located in prime Richmond location. Near
 freeway, BART and shopping. Ample
 parking, low monthly rent. 14 plus years of
 steady business.
\$29,900



RARE OPPORTUNITY

#17 - This gem property has a creekside
 location with lots of extra features, possible
 extra bedroom, family room, drive-thru
 garage and covered patio overlooking the
 creek.
Only \$425,000

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Real Estate & Home

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744 Calmar Avenue, Oakland Coming Soon!



Absolute Charm In Crocker Highlands!

Adorable 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom Crocker Highland Traditional featuring hardwood
 floors, charming details, formal dining room, and fireplace. Lots of light throughout
 and yard space for plenty of outdoor fun. Easy SF commute!

Asking Price \$685,000

For a Virtual Home Tour Visit me at www.NahidNassiri.com

MONTCLAIR



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 (510) 339-4550 Mobile

SPACIOUS NORTH BERKELEY TRADITIONAL

NEW LISTING



OPEN HOUSE
 SUNDAY,
 MARCH
 13TH, & 20TH
 2 - 4:30 PM

2210 LOS ANGELES, BERKELEY

\$919,000

First time on the market in 53 years, this 1913 large, handsome traditional has a
 graceful floor plan, some bay view, a backyard and an excellent central location.
 Set back from the street, it is almost level-in, with generous spaces & lots of
 light. 4+ bedrooms & 1 bath on upper level, 1 bedroom & bath on the main
 level. 2 plus rooms & a bathroom on the lower level.

Photo tour at www.berkhills.com



Norah Brower
 510.524.9888 x 26
 norah@berkhills.com

**BERKELEY
 HILLS
 REALTY**

BERKELEY HILLS REALTY

View Photo Tours
 On The Web



2210 Los Angeles Ave., Berkeley

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:30

New listing! Numerous windows & doors in this
 large, spacious traditional home create a cheerful
 & light interior. 4+ bdms on upper floor, 1 bdrm
 on main floor & 2 plus rms downstairs, with a
 bathroom on each level. The charming enclosed
 entrance porch together with the set back from
 the street enhance privacy. Close to Solano Ave.
 & "Gourmet Ghetto".
 Norah Brower 524-9888 x26 \$919,000



2615 Telegraph Ave., #303, Berkeley
 By Appointment

New Listing! Wonderful 1-bdrm condo in newer
 complex close to campus. Freshly painted, hwd
 flrs & crown molding. Ideal for students.
 Excellent location w/easy access to great
 restaurants, shops, cafes, BART & more!
 Denise Milburn 524-9888 x35 \$359,000



Elegant English-Style Home, Berkeley
 By Appointment

Gracious Traditional home situated on a large lot.
 Enjoy lovely views from the dining room and
 large, elegant living room. 2-story home features
 4 bedrooms, a sitting room, 2 baths, spacious
 kitchen and breakfast room, and a private yard.
 Maya Trilling 524-9888 x18 \$895,000



220 Caldecott Ln., #307, Oakland
 "The Parkwoods"

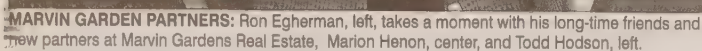
Open Sunday, 2:00 - 5:00

New listing! Beautiful top floor Piedmont model
 w/2 master bdrm suites. Cathedral ceilings,
 designer colors, and open gourmet kitchen.
 Peaceful, pretty hill views. Wonderful, newer
 complex w/many amenities incl. pool, hot tub,
 gym, express bus to SF & more.
 Denise Milburn 524-9888 x35 \$519,000

"From our first meeting, I felt complete confidence in
 your ability and your integrity; you have more than
 justified that trust."
 - M. W., El Cerrito

Albany ■ Berkeley ■ El Cerrito ■ Emeryville ■ Kensington ■ Oakland ■ Piedmont ■ Richmond ■ and beyond

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MARVIN GARDENS REAL ESTATE

Ron Egberman
Partner
Marvin Gardens Real Estate

See PARTNER, Page B6

| Small town Values | Small town Service | Competitive Rates |
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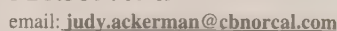


4+ Bedrooms/ 2+ Bathrooms
5329 Broadway
Offered @ \$1,149,000

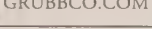
Ron Kriss, Broker
510-547-5970 Ext 55 ronkriss@jps.net
Online Tour @ www.5329Broadway.Com

RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Offered at \$700

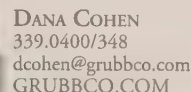


Offered at \$849,000



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's a bird, it's a plane, it's 'Stager Man'

Number 437 in a series of true experiences in real estate. Have you ever see that TV program about staging houses? Not just where the neighbors do redecorating of each other's living rooms (I've only heard that one), but the one that "Sell This House"? I find it quite entertaining. The idea is that certain houses are selling because they look so good. A decorator/stager is brought in to fix them. First, view the subject house, and we give a tour to see for ourselves what is wrong. Typically, there are old fuzzy carpets and dated wallpaper — but they're pretty hidden because the house is

overly full of furniture and other belongings. As we gaze at piles of video tapes, papers, family photos, computer wires and house plants trailing across the tops of drapes, the owners tell how they find the TV room convenient to the kitchen and the patio. Next there is an open house. Through hidden cameras we see visitors touring the house and we hear their comments, none complimentary. The rooms are small, the wallpaper dreadful, the colors bad, the garden a wreck. At the same time we are watching and hearing these remarks, so are the sellers. We get to witness the dismay of the owners, their shame, also their disagreement. "I like the purple bedroom," the husband says.



TARPOIFF AND TALBERT
True Experiences

"We just bought that carpet, and it was expensive," says the wife. At this point the white knight arrives, a pleasant man, soft spoken, the stager. He begins by offering a smile to the owners. "The kitchen is large and quite sunny," he says before he calmly lays out what must be immediately done to remedy the room's wrongs.

See STAGER MAN, Page B6

WEEKLY SALES

PALESDALE
21 Argus Ct - \$770,000
100 Broadway 203 - \$404,000
114 Santa Clara Av - \$610,000

BRANDY
1008 Key Route Bl - \$580,000
1005 Pierce St 3300 - \$450,000

KEY
1000 Addison St - \$750,000
1001 Benvenue Av - \$1,100,000
1005 Buena Vista Vly - \$860,000
1005 California St - \$680,000
1015 Carleton St - \$675,000
1017 Del Mar Av - \$837,000
1027 Josephine St - \$957,000
1030 King St - \$608,000
1073 North Valley - \$645,000
1073 San Pablo Av - \$495,000
1073 Stuart St - \$615,000

CERRITO
1001 Pomona Ct - \$605,000

BRANTE
1015 Apian Vly - \$473,000
1015 Aspen Ct - \$485,000
1021 Juanita Dr - \$423,000
1041 Manor Rd - \$470,000
1055 Schupp Ct - \$655,000

ERYVILLE
1021 40th 3302 - \$300,000
1021 40th 4205 - \$308,000
1021 40th 4302 - \$321,000
1021 40th 4303 - \$321,000
1021 Captain Dr E202 - \$350,000
1021 Loop 22 - \$300,000
1021 Loop 22 - \$660,000
1021 Loop 22 - \$665,000

BRINGTON
102 Yale Av - \$900,000

LAND
1056 108th Av - \$385,000
1056 10th St - \$535,000

See SALES, Page B20

LaSalle MORTGAGE BROKER / MORTGAGE BANKER
FINANCIAL SERVICES

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- Economics Background
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Homes-Link Real Estate

A sampling of our current listings:

| | |
|--|---|
|  | Maxwell Park 2 bedroom, 1 bath with renovated kitchen with island, granite counters, cherry wood cabinets and new appliances. 1-car garage and large, fenced backyard. Views to the south and southwest. \$450,000 |
|  | Richmond View Two new construction 3 bedroom, 2 bath family homes at the top of the hill, overlooking Wildcat Regional Park. Open plan kitchens. \$629,000 each |
|  | South Beach New York style 1 br/1 ba loft with original wood timbers, refinished hardwood floor in kitchen, and new carpet. High ceilings, halogen lighting, custom built-in storage. Great location near SBC Park, Ferry Building and Financial District. \$449,000 |

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California Realty


Jim Hedges
manager
stuniorjim@aol.com
415-762-9399

2241 Market St. San Francisco
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and our newest location!
221 Caledonia St. Sausalito

Piedmont Side of Montclair

OPEN SUNDAY MARCH 13 1-5 PM



6222 Bullard Drive
Elegant and Dramatic Mid Century Architecture

Level in and close by Montclair Village, this stylish 3+ bedroom 3 bath home offers a peaceful and serene setting. This sophisticated home blends the harmonies of bamboo floors, spacious living area with vaulted ceiling and wall of glass, large fireplace, and a dramatic artists' mural in bath. A winding staircase goes to family room with built-ins and fireplace and opens to a magical yard that winds down slate walkway to private patio and gazebo. PREPARE TO BE IMPRESSED!!

Offered at \$1,249,000
Donna Conroy 510-339-4723
View photos @ www.donnaconroy.com

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The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS

NEW LISTING



1652 Visalia Avenue, Berkeley

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Charming light-filled Mediterranean in wonderful Thousand Oaks. Lovely views, cathedral ceiling and many classic details. Surrounded by lovely serene gardens. Spacious two bedrooms, one bath close to Solano Avenue and Colusa Circle shops and entertainment.

Offered at \$649,000

MICHAEL FRIEDMAN
510.339.0400/265
mfriedman@grubbco.com
FriedmanRealtor.com
GRUBBCO.COM

Visit GRUBBCO.COM for Photo Tours of this and other current listings.

The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS

NEW LISTING



1162 Trestle Glen Road, Crocker Highlands

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This wonderful Crocker Highlands home features three plus bedrooms, two and one half baths. Stunning living room, large formal dining room, updated kitchen with adjacent family room, hardwood floors, master suite and two-car garage.

Offered at \$995,000

KURT BUCHHOLZ
339.0400/221
buchholz@grubbco.com
GRUBBCO.COM

Visit GRUBBCO.COM for Photo Tours of this and other current listings.

The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS

NEW LISTING



1165 Keeler Avenue, Berkeley


OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This three bedroom, two bath brown shingle contemporary with soaring ceilings, wood finishes, skylights and beautiful vistas to the Bay and San Francisco, has easy access to the wonderful, large and private garden.

Offered at \$695,000

HELENE BARKIN
652.2133/424
hbarkin@grubbco.com
helenebarkin.com
GRUBBCO.COM

Visit GRUBBCO.COM for Photo Tours of this and other current listings.

SOLD



51 KIMBERLIN HEIGHTS DR.
Originally offered at \$689,000

Spectacular expansive Bay views ♦ Three bedrooms ♦ Two and a half baths ♦ Large rumpus room ♦ Two car garage ♦ Newer kitchen ♦ Two fireplaces ♦ Large yard

Karen Lum
510-339-4776
Represented the Buyer

COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

californiamoves.com

PIEDMONT ADULT SCHOOL
CLASS SCHEDULE

- Taking the Confusion Out of Purchasing a Home
Saturday, April 9th ~ 9:30 to 1:00 Registration Fee \$40
- Everything You Wanted to Know About Selling Your Home
Saturday, April 16th ~ 9:30 to 1:00 Registration Fee \$40

For more detailed information and registration, go to www.piedmontadultschool.org or call (510) 594-2717. Terry has been teaching these classes at Piedmont Adult School for over 15 years.

TERRY KULKA
510.339.4789
terrykulka@att.net

Over 300 Homes Sold - Experience Counts!

Stager Man

FROM PAGE B5

"We'll paint the walls and cabinets in a neutral color," he explains, "and remove the mirrors from the breakfast room walls. They're just too distracting." Through the house he goes, camera man following, identifying the problem areas and describing as he goes what he'll do to fix them.

I think it's at this juncture that the surprise comes. The nice stager reveals that the owners have a very small budget for supplies — \$300 — to do everything. And — perhaps worse — there is to be another open house very soon. Total transformation must occur in one day!

The next shots are of massive activity throughout the house and garden. About half dozen of the owners' friends have been recruited to paint walls, ceilings, cabinets. The stager man, the owners, and even the program's narrator are busily packing things up in boxes. Kids' toys, books, glass figurines — lots of stuff — are banished. Furniture is carried out or, if deemed helpful to the new look, moved to other rooms.

Stager man has sent narrator to Lowe's to get ferns and geraniums, and they're being unloaded in the driveway. Painting in many rooms continues. The friends are looking tired.

The owners are summoned back and forth between work areas to be told what's happening in each. "We're replacing these flowered drapes with white linen-look curtains. See how much better the light is now."

The crew is reminded often that time is running out, there are only a few hours left to finish. The stager sets the dining room table as if for a dinner party, he adds candles and flowers.

He hurries to the path leading to the front door and digs holes for the ferns and geraniums, then goes back inside to move a rocking chair from a bedroom into the TV room.

Picking up a sponge and dipping it into mossy green paint, he applies color to the newly painted brick fireplace. Then he decorates the mantel with fresh fruit.

It's time! Time for the second open house, and now we see through the hidden camera, guess who? The very same people who came to the first open house are back.

I find this very strange. Who are these people? Certainly not real buyers. Maybe they're neighbors wanting to see what all the fuss in the neighborhood has been about.

Oh, and they love it. They love how the house looks now. Flowers by the front door where there were only weeds. Open spaces in the house. Neutral colors over the striped wallpaper.

"It's amazing," they say. "Just look at this room now. Why, it's so much larger than I thought, I think I could live here."

This last comment is included in the show, I'm sure, to give the impression that someone may be buying the house before long. And perhaps someone will. Certainly the houses on the show do look better, at least on TV.

But these make-overs are so hastily done with the work accomplished by whomever is available, that I can't help but think that in person they aren't very good. I know positively that it's not enough to simply get paint spread on surfaces. Well executed painting looks very, very different than painting that was not.

There are just too many short cuts taken on this show. At one house, for example, the fronts of the kitchen cabinets had been covered by the owners with, of all things, contact paper.

It was ugly and prominent and it made it impossible to see anything beyond that stuck-on, brightly patterned covering. The stager called it like it was. It had to go.

But time was short and removing contact paper is not a quick and easy thing, so it was painted over. Painted over! I couldn't believe it. Painted over contact paper — no matter with what — has to look terrible.

At the end of the show, by the way, the narrator tells us how much individual miracles cost. "Total for candles, paint for the walls, and one orchid for the dining room: \$29." Really.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpoff are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 653-2050 and at www.tarpoffandtalbert.com.

Don't miss the Open Home Guide on B21.

Partner

FROM PAGE B4

Kensington Education Foundation and he is past president of the Kensington Fire Board.

He's been selling real estate from Piedmont to El Cerrito, with a focus on Berkeley, Oakland, Kensington and Albany, so he can traverse this competitive market with the best of them.

He is also a trained architect with a fine sense of design and a sharp eye for the fundamentals of residential construction and remodeling.

Egherman's friends describe him as a warm, approachable guy who loves his work, loves his clients. He also brings an awesome beer, which he generously shares with his friends.

"I look at buying or selling a home as the single biggest financial decision people ever make," he said. "So I hope to educate

He is also a trained architect with a fine sense of design and a sharp eye for the fundamentals.

my clients so they can make informed decisions. And I hope I do it with patience and good humor."

He has worked for some of the Bay Area's finest museums, including the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco and the Ansel Adams Center for Photography, so he can tell you whether that weird drip pattern in the living room rug is an undiscovered painting by Jackson Pollock or just evidence of a leaky roof.

Egherman earned his bachelor of architecture from UC Berkeley in 1966, and practiced architecture for seven years. His projects included residential homes, banks and art museums.

Controlling expenses Help

■ Help leave more for your financial goals

Most of us know we should be saving more money, whether it is for retirement, college expenses or simply for an emergency fund. The most important part of saving more is setting up a plan for how you will accomplish your investment goals in order to create a successful plan, you need to keep in mind an important financial mantra: pay yourself first.

One helpful rule is to spend what you have left after saving, instead of saving what is left after spending. While this is a basic primer on controlling expenses and developing better savings habits, it is an important concept to remember as you set financial goals.

Think of your finances as a tank, where water flows in and out. Your job is to adjust the amount flowing

out so that there is always an ample amount remaining in the tank. To create your plan, start by listing your income sources such as wages, investment income, and bonuses. Then list your expenses, such as mortgage or rent payments, utilities, groceries, gasoline, and day care expenses.

Second, track your expenses for a typical month, writing down every dollar spent, including all the regular payments you make each month. Do not forget about ongoing expenses that are not as obvious, such as taxes, insurance premiums and home repair expenses. If you have a bill you pay several

times a year, you will find that it adds up to a significant amount. Now you can easily see where you can save. Take a hard look at your expenses and evaluate what can be made. As a guideline, you should be spending no more than 10 percent of your gross income on housing.

See GOUGH

The GRUBB Co.

PIEDMONT



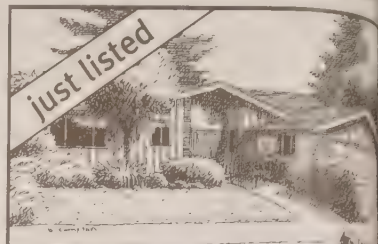
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Price Upon Request



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Happy Valley Estate

A magnificent 5300+-sf gated estate in the heart of Happy Valley. 5bd/5.5ba nestled on 1.32+- acres. Totally updated and expanded with media/bonus room, pool, hot tub and much more.

ALBANY

\$2,000,000



Fabulous Estate on 8+ acres

4bd/3.5ba, 5660+-sf home with huge bonus room, walk-in wine room, built in 80" TV media and audio/video equipment. Extensive crown molding, millwork, granite and marble. This fabulous estate is located on 8+ lush acres.

LAFAYETTE

\$2,350,000



Paradise in Happy Valley

Private, gated 2.8+- acre estate high prestigious Happy Valley Road. Expanded granite kitchen, billiard room, home theater, wine cellar, cherry wood office, 5-car garage, outdoor paradise and koi pond.

BERKELEY

\$1,799,000



Breathtaking Bay Views

This 4000+-sf arts and crafts masterpiece by noted architect Walter Ratcliff Jr is a truly special home. The 0.28+-ac parcel with Golden Gate Bridge views include a separate residential lot providing a rare opportunity.

LAFAYETTE

\$1,475,000



Tuscan Villa

Mediterranean-style expanded and remodeled home. This elegant 4bd/3ba home offers 3200+-sf of living space on 0.61+-ac lot. Large creek side lot with lawn area, redwood decking and entertainment areas.

BERKELEY

\$1,000,000



Sweeping Bay Views

Traditional 4000+-sf, 6bd/3ba North Berkeley home. Located near Solano Avenue. The home is a little refreshing needed to the property. Remodeling plans available. Great location and great opportunity.

ORINDA

\$1,095,000



Mature Landscaping and Great Views

Beautifully updated 5 bedroom, 3 bath home in 2568+-sf. This light and bright home features a granite kitchen and spacious master suite. The lot is over 0.75+- of an acre with mature trees and spectacular views.

WALNUT CREEK

\$675,000



Charming Walnut Creek Cottage

Enjoy the tree lined streets in this mature neighborhood. Charming creek-side three bedroom cottage with a remodeled kitchen and a two-car garage. Light and bright with tons of windows.

SAN FRANCISCO

\$800,000



Edwardian Flat

Recently remodeled. 3bd/1.5ba, top common. Very spacious home with period details, large kitchen and hardwood floors. Walking distance to cafes, restaurants and shops.

www.tahoerentals.com

Want to invest in real estate but not live in it?

Turn on any financial news program and at some point you'll hear the experts extolling the virtues of diversification. Real estate has long been considered a conservative, long-term strategy to growing wealth. While some seasoned real estate investors make it look easy, to be successful, beginners should follow some basic principles.

■ Learn all you can. Consider attending a seminar or talking with individuals who are experienced in real estate investing. If you don't know anyone in your area, check out the National Real Estate Investors Association's

Web site: www.nationalreia.com or www.mrandlord.com.

Before committing your cash, you should have a fundamental understanding of real estate. For example, be aware that, in general, investment properties are not liquid investments.

Barring exceptional circumstances, real estate does not sell at a moment's notice. It could take days or months to sell a property, depending on the strength of the market in a particular region.

■ What are your financial goals? It is possible to make a lot of money. However, you need to

determine how hard you are going to work to do it, and how long you intend to keep each property. With each investment unit, you'll need to take into account cash flow, appreciation, equity, and depreciation. Talk with your accountant about tax liabilities and benefits.

■ Consider cash flow. You will need to have enough capital on hand to cover any short-term losses due to vacancies between tenants, repairs, property management, taxes, mortgage, etc.

■ Start small. Look into buying a single family home or a duplex. Leave large apartment build-

ings and commercial properties to the pros.

■ Inquire at the local Chamber of Commerce about companies relocating into or out of the area. Company movement is one indicator of demand for rental and/or office space.

■ Find a property that will be in demand when you are ready to resell. Look for a moderately



SCOTT THOMPSON
Real Estate Investor

priced home on a quiet street with three or four bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a garage.

■ Research the property. The most common way first-time in-

vestors lose is to buy a property beyond the local market. Investigate the school district and plans for area highway or development. Ask a local professional about the area and how fast the market is moving. Demand in the area.

See THOMPSON

The GRUBB Co.

Recently Sold in Piedmont

56 Lakeview Ave.
Originally offered at \$2,600,000

104 Park Way
Originally offered at \$1,935,000

157 Holly Place
Originally offered at \$849,000

ANIAN PETTIT TUNNEY
Broker Associate
339.0400/217
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5243 COLE STREET
MAXWELL PARK, OAKLAND

- Beautifully Remodeled Park, 2+ Bdr, 1.5 Bath
- California Bungalow
- Newly remodeled bathroom
- Old World details fill this home which is complimented by an amazing Southern exposure
- Formal dining room, large eat-in kitchen, and fireplace
- Hardwood floors
- Sun Room/Office
- Huge Yard!
- 1423 SQ. FT.

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3/13 2-4PM

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marvin gardens

Open Homes

Piedmont \$987,000
Just Listed. 3 BR, 3 bath home with potential 4th BR. Freshly painted master bedroom suite, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, spacious living room with beautiful ceiling detail. Family room adjoins charming patio with cascading waterfall.

661 Blair Ave.
Doris Alexander

Open Sun 1-4
559-2938

Kensington \$849,000
Remodeled Modern Beauty! Quiet part of Beloit near canyon. Four bedrooms, 2.5 baths w/garage converted to family room. Granite kitchen w/cherry cabinets & bamboo floors opens to great room. Fireplace upstairs and down.

607 Beloit Ave.
Patrick Duffy

Contact Agent
847-9147

El Cerrito
Sweeping 4-bridge views! Lovely 3 BR home on secluded drive. Kensington Elm, updated kitchen, spacious family/dining room opening to garden & deck. Skylights, glass hardwood floors, workshop, au pair quarters.

8306 Terrace Dr.
Todd Hodson

Glenview \$640,000
Charming Craftsman duplex on a large level lot. Bright 2+ bedroom, 1 bath home and an adorable attached studio unit. Original leaded glass built-ins, box beam ceiling, wainscoting, gorgeous oak floors. Beautifully remodeled eat-in kitchen opens to a sunny deck and garden with fruit trees.

1484/1486 Excelsior Ave.
Celia Concus

Open Sun 2-4:30
527-0211

Alameda \$599,000
Very serene, peaceful setting on the water with direct access to Shoreline Parkway! Fabulous San Francisco Bay views! One level "duet" w/2 bedrooms, 2 baths, central atrium. Master bedroom & living room open to patio & panoramic views. Hardwood floors, updated kitchen & baths. 2 car gar.

2624 Bayview Drive
Terry Pedersen

Open Sat. & Sun. 2-5
527-2700x36

El Cerrito
Fabulous views. Three bedrooms, one bath floor. Huge tile-floored studio or family room, dark room, hobby room, 1/2 bath, and laundry downstairs. Gleaming hardwood floors, lovely remodeled kitchen. Inmaculada! A truly lovely home ready to move into!

6938 Fairview Drive
Sue Nelson & Darrell Hoh

Open Sun 2-5
514-4444

1573 Solano Avenue
Berkeley CA 94707
(510) 527-2700

7502 Fairmount Avenue
El Cerrito CA 94530
(510) 527-3111

289 Arlington Avenue
Kensington CA 94707
(510) 524-0800

147 W Richmond Avenue,
El Richmond CA 94801
(510) 231-1640

El Cerrito \$559,000
This 1950's original owner El Cerrito home boasts three bedrooms and two baths. Fantastic Golden Gate views from living room, main bedroom and deck. A place to relax and enjoy the ever changing sunsets. Low maintenance yard

703 Seaview Drive
Mykah Larkins & Mary Gray

Open Sun 2-4
559-2939

Albany \$589,000
Craftsman Bungalow! Inviting front porch, to the spacious light-filled rooms, this home has it all! Large, open living & dining room, two bedrooms, beautiful hardwood floors, fireplace, kitchen with breakfast nook. Deck & huge rear yard. Separate home office. Fabulous location near Solano Ave.

1062 Peralta Ave.
Richard Morrison

Open Sat. & Sun. 2-5
527-2700x32

El Cerrito
Gardener's Paradise. Sunny, updated bungalow on quiet street. Three bedrooms, 1.5 baths, kitchen with maple cabinets and granite counter. Double-paned windows. Huge garden with trees.

1322 Norvell St.
Todd Hodson

El Cerrito \$489,000
Charming, well-maintained two bedroom, one bath home near Colusa Circle shops and cafes. Sunny dining room, open kitchen, hardwood floors under carpet, one-car attached garage. Garden with camellias.

7630 Ward Ave.
Diana Mendler

Open Sunday 2-4
559-2937

Richmond Annex \$479,000
The perfect Richmond Annex home! Two bedrooms, one bath, formal dining room and roomy family room, plus an updated bath and kitchen. Lots of parking space and a 2-car garage. New windows.

5811 Columbia Ave.
Joan Underwood

Open Sun 2-4
559-2911

Richmond N&E
3 BR, 1.5 bath home in great location on quiet street. Sunny living room w/ fireplace, formal dining room with breakfast nook. Freshly painted, refinished hardwood floors, laundry room, garage w/breezeway. Great for entertaining!

901 34th St.
Té Everson

For more information about these properties visit www.marvingardens.com

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OR E-MAIL DEVANOSKY@CCTIMES.COM.

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5908 Ivanhoe Road, Rockridge

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3849 Buell Street
Oakland

Originally offered at \$429,000
Represented the seller



5515 Moraga Avenue
Oakland

Originally offered at \$679,000
Represented the seller

MARY MERRICK
OFFICE: 510.339.0400/315
mmerrick@grubbco.com
GRUBB CO. COM



760 Cary Drive
San Leandro

Originally offered at \$630,000
Represented the buyer



1848 Gaspar Drive
Oakland

Originally offered at \$629,000
Represented the buyer

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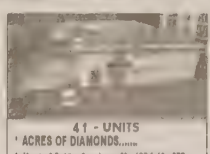
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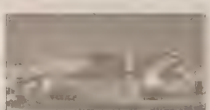
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Springtown Area
3 BD / 2 BA DUET
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HUGE BACKYARD!
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Lot approx. 8,729 sq. ft.
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\$43/MO. HOA Dues
Community pool, etc.
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HAYWARD \$ 4,350,000



5 - UNITS
Great Investment Opportunity. Beautiful 5-plex.
2-unit front building w/ 2-180 units.
3-unit building in rear w/ 2-180 & 1-280.
Updated Kitchens and Bathrooms.
Potential for more income at market rents.

OAKLAND \$ 675,000



WALK TO HIGHLAND HOSPITAL
Beautiful 1910 2- & 20/28A Craftsman
Located in Oakland New Chinatown Area
New Roof, Electrical, Plumbing, and hard wood floors.
New Kitchen w/ Bosch appliances, custom Cabinets
Tumble bed, etc. MUST COME AND SEE!!!
OAKLAND MAKE OFFER \$ 580,000



6 - UNITS
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& Ashby BART. Two Building Combination
2-unit front building w/ 2-380 flats.
4-unit building in rear w/ 2x 280 &
2x 180 units. Owner is very motivated. CALL!
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Outstanding Home of the Week ALAMEDA



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plex. 2-2 bedroom & 2-1
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Perfect for owner's use.

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45 Acres above Crow Canyon Country Club. Tentative map
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cel of land not included in price. Beautiful lots looking over
valley.
Mel Copland (510) 339-8900

LIVERMORE \$1,290,000
Rare zoned light industrial. Permitted 1,900 sq. ft. shop in
back. 3 phased wired, 2/1 house in front, non permitted 1/
1 conv. det. garage.
(925) 455-0505

SAN RAMON \$915,000
Upgraded two story. 2492 sq. ft. 4 BR/3 BA. Granite counters.
Hardwood flooring. Family room fireplace. Custom shutters.
Slate patio with trellis
Janice Dalton (925) 314-1500

LIVERMORE \$869,000
"Adorable turn of the Century Victorian." Fantastic southside
downtown location. Remodeled throughout. Main home is
3 BR/2BA. Custom cabinets in kitchen, with Silstone solid
countertops. Guest cottage includes full bath, kitchenette
and "Murphy" bed.
Kevin Collins (925) 455-0505

DANVILLE \$625,000
3 BR/2 BA. Updated with double pane windows. Heating,
air conditioning, and alarm system. Walking distance to Os-
age Park shopping and dining.
Becky Sargent (925) 314-1500

LIVERMORE \$542,500
Great location. Almost 10,000 sq. ft. lot. Very nice 3 BR/2BA
duet. Tile ctrs and floor in kitchen. Carpet 2 yrs. old. 1 yr. old
40 yr. roof. Spa Incl. Fully landscaped front and rear. Large
patio. Side access. Show and sell.
Lillian Cozart (925) 455-0505

FREMONT PENDING \$525,950
Unique & charming custom home. Close to shopping & trans-
portation & farmers market. Historical Irvington Area. Large
bright kitchen w/ vaulted ceilings. Pergo floors.
Kara Diaz (510) 339-8900

PITTSBURG \$399,000
3 BR/1 BA. Central heating with AC. Family room with fire-
place. Ceiling fan. Pellets fire insert. Washer, dryer and re-
frigerator. Spa. Dual pane windows. 2 car garage.
Francisco Ortiz (925) 314-1500

MONTCLAIR \$275,000
Two parcels. 8250 sq. ft. of beautiful land in Montclair-
Imagine that!
Sheila Brox Crawford (510) 339-8900

OAKLAND PENDING \$259,000
Romantic view of the City. Large one bedroom condo-
minium. Secure building with garage.
Lisa Spencer (510) 339-8900



DIABLO Price Upon Request
Approx. 5.5 ac. fronting historic Diablo Lake - incl. personal
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Master BR en-suite. 2 BR / 1 BA guest wing. Next to Mt.
Diablo State Park. (925) 314-1500



ALAMEDA \$899,000
1418 5TH ST. Open Sun 2-4:30
Utterly charming 3 unit Victorian close to everything. Great
income. Adorable garden. High ceilings throughout. De-
tails galore. One very special 1 bedroom unit vacant.
Andrea Gordon (510) 339-8900



ALAMO \$2,425,000
Gorgeous Barrington Alamo home. 6 BR/6BA. 5073 sq. ft.
Built in 2004.
Jill Parker (925) 314-1500



MONTCLAIR \$669,000
7009 BROADWAY TER. Open Sun 2-4:30
Gaze at the Bay and Mt. Tamalpais from this 1995 era home.
Garden space galore! Living & dining rooms w/ hardwoods,
central island kitchen with breakfast nook. 3 BR/2.5BA.
Helen Nicholas (510) 339-8900



OAKLAND \$540,000
Updated Laurel district bungalow w/ beautiful details.
New kitchen w/ granite countertops. New bathrooms with
marble countertops and floors and much more.
Mel Copland (510) 339-8900



EMERYVILLE \$499,000
4321 ESSEX ST. Open Sun 2-4:30PM
Newly upgraded, this 3 BR/2BA home features a living
room and dining room w/ high ceilings. A spacious sunny
eat-in kitchen. Family room. Office space. Near Bay St.
Victor Fierro (510) 339-8900



OAKLAND \$389,000
Delightful home on a quiet street. Hardwood floors. Roomy
kitchen. Large private backyard with a deck ready for en-
tertaining. Move-in condition.
Freddie Dizon (510) 339-8900



OAKLAND \$2300/month
A panoramic view of Lake Merritt & the East Bay Hills stretch
before your feet. From the 40th level, of this 28R/2BA
co-op w/ walls of glass in every room. Call for showing.
Tom Erwin (510) 339-8900

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LAFAYETTE

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Legacy First Financial 925.975.4300

House hunting this weekend? Turn to Hills Newspapers Real Estate & Home section first.

Thompson

FROM PAGE B8

■ Inspect the home you're considering for signs of water damage, such as stains on the ceiling and crinkling or gathering wallpaper; open and close every door and window; and check all electrical sockets by plugging in an appliance. Get an independent home inspection, roof inspection and termite inspection. Unexpected repair costs can eat away resale profit. Because even the best inspection can't always predict problems, try to set aside some of the rental income for unexpected repairs.

■ Spend time driving the

Get an independent home inspection, roof inspection and termite inspection. Unexpected repair costs can eat away resale profit. Because even the best inspection can't always predict problems, try to set aside some of the rental income for unexpected repairs.

streets of the community noting the condition of other properties. Are lawns maintained? Are roofs in good shape? Are homes kept up? ■ Be ready to make fixes quickly and respond to the renter's needs. If you're not prepared to be a hands-on landlord, consider hiring a property

■ Find a real estate professional

who has experience in investment properties in your market. They can pass on valuable information about rental prices in your market and the sale prices of other rental properties in the community.

Remember, investing in a property is much different than living in one, and while emotion and attachment can be prime motivators when it comes to homes, it is return on investment that counts when investing in real estate.

Scott Thompson is a Realtor at Prudential California Realty. He can be reached at 510-410-2003.

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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2826 Webster Street, Berkeley

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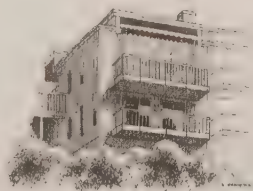


MONTCLAIR \$1,290,000
7315 SNAKE
Almost new contemporary home 4+beds/3+ baths. Panoramic View of S.E. bridges, luxurious master suit w/panoramic view, gourmet kitchen, top quality appliances, high ceilings, new carpet, home office & au-pair unit w/separate entrance.
Martha Shin 510-339-4565

Open Sunday



MONTCLAIR \$1,100,000
1767 INDIAN WAY
Custom built by and for the owner, this 4135 sq ft. 2 yr old home has 4+ bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, grand formal entry, formal living room, family room, formal dining room, chef's kitchen, and plus room; everything you need for modern day living.
Nahid Nassiri 510-339-4550



HILLER HIGHLANDS \$789,000
28 SPY GLASS HILL
Spectacular Bay View in elegant 2 bed 2 bath townhome close to pool, gym and club house.
Jennie Lippincott 510-384-3557

Open Sunday



REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$619,000
4501 ELINORA AVENUE
JUST LISTED! Cape Cod traditional with huge park-like backyard! Lovely hardwood floors, bright sunny bedrooms. Wood frame windows and lots of closet space PLUS office area, eat-in kitchen. See photos and virtual tour at: PatriciaBennett.com 510-482-9000

SEQUOYAH HEIGHTS \$599,000
43 MISSION HILLS STREET
Incredible S.F. and Bay Views from this spacious 2 story townhome in Sequoyah Heights. Sunny patio has garden space and hot tub. Close to country club, tennis club, hiking, bike trails and more.
Rosemary Greene 510-899-6305



GLENVIEW \$599,000
3941 ELSTON AVENUE
Updated and Remodeled 1920's 2+ bedroom 2-bath home with newer separate guest room. Spacious kitchen opens to a large sunny deck and rear garden. www.3941elstonavenue.com
Michael Thompson 510-339-5775

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LAUREL HEIGHTS \$549,000
3729 WISCONSIN STREET
Charming Spanish style home with partial view! Large yard with separate dog run or veggie garden! Gleaming hardwood floors, formal dining room and large eat-in kitchen. See photos and virtual tour at: PatriciaBennett.com 510-482-9000

FRUITVALE 4PLEX \$545,000
1801 27th Avenue
Remodeled kitchen & baths w/permits. Kitchen has granite counters, units have many upgrades, newly painted in & out. Great investment opportunity!!
Nicole Edgar 510-899-6363

LAKE MERRITT \$449,900
565 Bellevue, Unit 2001
Light and Sunny contemporary condo has stunning Lake Merritt and Panoramic Views, gym, club, pool and doorman.
Rosemary Greene 510.899.6305

ADAMS POINT \$329,000
155 Pearl Street #201
Charming Adams Point condo, kitchen & bath. Stylish designer colors and flooring. Large living room with fireplace and balcony. Convenient location.
Betty Sue Schack 925.784.0429

Coming Soon

CROCKER HIGHLAND \$329,000
Charming Crocker Highland Traditional featuring 3 bedroom, 2 bath and complete with formal dining room, hardwood floors, fireplace, and an abundance of charming details. Lots of light throughout and a beautiful yard!
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By Appointment



UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$979,000
Set on an adorable quiet street, this gorgeous 3 BD, 2 BA 12'x12' Traditional has hardwood floors, original detailing, vaulted ceilings, a spacious and inviting floor plan and bright cooks kitchen with a breakfast room. Landscaped and fenced back yard complete greenhouse and deck for entertaining.
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CRESTMONT \$899,000
Panoramic SF bay views from this 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath w/contemporary. Filled with hardwood floors w/hand-painted vaulted ceilings, and staggered the LR, FR & formal entry. Large front and fenced yard behind formal dining with upper deck showcasing this home in the area.
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Commercial

OAKLAND \$529,000
4900 BANCROFT AVENUE
2- story mixed use building with +/- sq ft. Zoned c-30, 3 floors, 2 kitchens, high ceilings, new plan, 5 entrances with street access.
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4550

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING A MOVE, PLEASE CALL US!

Looking for a new home? Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide on page B21.

Valuing your home improvements

BY DIAN HYMER
When is remodeling a waste of money?
INMAN NEWS
It would be nice if you could count on getting one dollar back when you sell your house for each dollar you invested in renovations. Most people hope for more than a dollar-for-dollar return. In reality, many improvements return less than the amount invested. For example, the 2004 Cost Versus Value Report, recently published by the National Association of Realtors, reported that nationally, the average percent recouped on

a bathroom remodel was only 90.1 percent. It was 88.1 percent for a deck addition, 81.2 percent for a family room addition, and a mere 79.4 percent for a major kitchen remodel.
Does this mean that remodeling is a waste of your time and money? It can be, especially if you go about a renovation in a haphazard fashion. It's important to do due diligence investigations before embarking on a remodel project, just as you would if you were considering buying a new home.
There are many variables to consider.
First, consider that the figures quoted above are national averages.

The amount recouped on a remodel depends in large part on where you live. There's significant variability from one city to the next, according to the NAR report.
For instance, nationally, homeowners recouped only 90 percent on a bathroom remodel. But, the amount recouped for the same job was 109.7 percent in New York City, 100 percent in San Francisco, and only 61.3 percent in Denver, on average.
The return on a remodeling investment will also depend on the value of your home, particularly in relationship to the value of homes in your neighborhood. If you have a small home in a neighborhood of larger, more expensive homes, you

could come out ahead by enlarging your home.
However, it's important to keep costs in line so that you don't end up over-improving your home for the neighborhood. Buyers tend to discount a home that's priced above the value of other homes in the neighborhood.
Before remodeling, it's also important to consider your competition. In some areas, certain remodeling projects are taken for granted. For instance, if you're in an upscale neighborhood of older homes where most homeowners have remodeled their kitchen and bathrooms, you will be penalized price-wise by the market if your home is outdated.
In areas where home prices are rising rapidly, you're likely to recoup more on your remodel investment than you would during times of meager appreciation. With this in

mind, you're more likely to recoup your investment over the long term.
HOMEOWNER'S TIP: There's a subjective factor that can't be overlooked when remodeling. This factor is often referred to as pride of ownership. And, don't discount the value of creature comfort. There's a certain sense of well-being to be derived from a home that suits your lifestyle while aptly reflecting who you are.
Despite these factors, from an investment standpoint, it makes sense to consider resale value before making an investment in a major renovation.
This doesn't mean that you should remodel your home with someone else in mind. But, if you're aiming to recoup as much of your investment as possible, it's wise to consider home buyer preferences in your area. If your remodeling is not in tune with what buyers want,

it could actually decrease the value of your home. Also keep in mind that while trends vanish quickly, quality and good taste are timeless.
THE CLOSING: The NAR Cost Versus Value Report was based on professional judgment rather than on actual sales data. Therefore, the report is somewhat subjective. However, it does point out the importance of carefully considering before remodeling.
Dian Hymer can be reached at 510-339-4777 or by e-mail at Dian@Dianhymer.com.

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Claremont Office

Announces Our 2004 Top Producers



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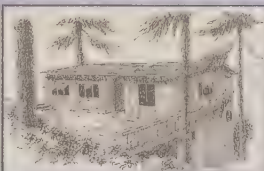
FEATURED HOMES



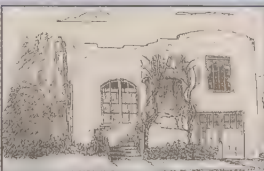
Sunday 2-4:30
24 York Drive, Piedmont. 3BR/2BA contemporary. One level w/large yard & pool. David & Claire Cunningham (510) 428-0900



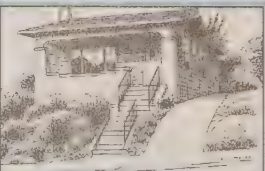
Sunday 1-4
51 Highland, Kensington. Sought after one level w/bay views. 3BR/2BA, large lot. Nancy Taussig (510) 845-0211



Sunday 2-4:30
6323 Girvin, Oakland. 3+BR/3BA Montclair contemporary, sylvan setting. Nancy Hinkley (510) 428-0900



Sunday 2-5
1270 Bancroft. 2BR/1BA Spanish Med. gem. Sunny yard, extra workspace, near Cal. Wendy Kashiwa (510) 868-1400



Sunday 2-4:30
3044 Suter, Oakland. 2BR/1BA + den. Stylish updated bungalow, yd, deck. Nancy Hinkley (510) 428-0900

OAKLAND

Style and Elegance \$2,395,000
Spectacular 4BR/3.5BA, cutting edge, new one of a kind construction. Heidi Marchesotti (510) 339-9290

Claremont Hills \$1,950,000
Mediterranean 3BR/3.5BA masterpiece w/spectacular designer kitchen. Heidi Marchesotti (510) 339-9290

Crocker Highlands \$1,249,000
Fully renovated Tudor w/sep. guest quarters w/2nd kitchen. Andreas Furtner (510) 339-9290

Sunday 2-4:30 \$779,000
3651 Chabot Ct. Fab. 3BR/2BA gem! Chef's kitch, FDR, mstr suite, near BART/shops. Judith Glass/Sheila Sabine (510) 428-0900

Sunday 2-5 \$739,000
1234 Trestle Glen Rd. Charming 3BR/1.5BA remod. kit/bath. Hwd floors. Dolores Thom/Sandy Wong (510) 834-2010

Sunday 2-4 \$599,000
25 Ironwood. HOA TWH 3BR/2.5BA, upgrades, views, patio living! Super! Nancy Plattford (510) 845-0211

Sunday 1-4 \$589,000
455 38th Street. Great 4BR/2BA Victorian. True quality! Mariel Watkins-Dixon (510) 834-2010

Sunday 2-4 \$549,000
4358 Bermuda. Leona Hgts Rancher, 3BR/2BA, hrdwd flrs, basement! Candace David (510) 868-1400

OAKLAND

Sunday 12-5 \$358,000
2932 76th Avenue. Robert Pittman (510) 757-6954

Sunday 2-4:30 \$299,000
730 29th St. #C2. Snazzy loft, soaring ceiling, new kitchen, patio. Aleso (510) 428-0900

Sunday 2-4:30 \$279,000
1 W Embarcadero #157. 1BR/1BA in Portobello complex. Tastefully updated. Nancy Hinkley (510) 428-0900

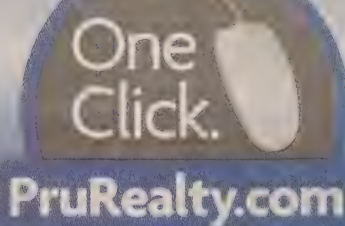
BERKELEY/ALBANY

Panoramic Views \$3,200,000
Custom 3+BR/3.5BA, 2 story contemporary sanctuary w/quality throughout. Heidi Marchesotti (510) 339-9290

Sunday 2-4:30 \$899,000
809 Shattuck, Berkeley. Sunny 3BR/2BA w/upgrades galore! Bay views. Krista Miller (510) 868-1524

Sunday 1-5 \$599,888
1027 Evelyn Ave., Albany. Vintage Albany 2BR/1BA, 400 sq. ft. workshop, huge lot. Suren Nayantal (510) 527-9800

Sunday 2-4:30 \$415,000
2717 Acton, Berkeley. Adorable 2-story 1BR/1BA mini mansion starter home. Vikki Landes (510) 339-9290



Get notified when homes we held open.

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Sunday 2-5 \$599,000
6429 Hagen Blvd. Gorgeous 1950s 3+BR/2BA w/amazing bay views! Natalie Lynch (510) 834-2010

Sunday 1-5 \$459,000
1321 Norvell. 2BR/1BA remodeled + upgrades galore. A must see! Victoria Curtis (510) 527-9800

RICHMOND

Sunday 1-4 \$699,950
New 3BR/3BA reduced \$50K. 2 master suites w/bay views. Ad #1289. Margarita Ramos (510) 232-7253

Sunday 1-4 \$414,000
2920 Clinton Ave. 2BR, vaulted ceilings. Huge kitchen. Ad #1355. (510) 758-5637

RICHMOND

Sunday 2-5 \$399,000
3724 Garvin. Sunny 3BR/2BA w/family rm. Nice yard. Vickie & Julie (510) 428-0900

Sunday 2-4 \$319,000
621 13th St. Sweet starter at a great price. 2BR/1BA. Claudia Esteban (510) 527-9800

RESIDENTIAL INCOME

Sunday 1-5 \$1,225,000
1100 Norwood, Oakland. Elegant Tudor duplex, formal DR, frpl, 2BR/1BA, garden. Robert Nongauze/Dolores Thom (510) 834-2010

Sunday 1-4 \$799,000
3033 Harrison, Oakland. Lake Merritt stylish multi-unit. Vacant 2BR. Jeanette Vento (510) 845-0211

Sunday 2-4:30 \$679,000
3818-3820 Shafter, Oakland. Charming Mediterranean duplex - each unit 2BR/1BA. Gene Boomer (510) 339-9290

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Historic home travels from Michigan to California

BY SAMANTHA PETERSON
INMAN NEWS

Marci and Don Camacho originally planned to build a replica Victorian on land they own in California's Sonoma County. Instead, they ended up with an 1831 Greek revival house from Michigan. The timber frame house journeyed west after being dismantled piece by piece and carefully stored.

It's now being pieced back together much like a jigsaw puzzle in the little town of Occidental, about 90 minutes north of San Francisco. The process is far from over. "Marci Camacho estimates it will take another two years to finish," but the couple already has come a long way in their quest for their dream house.

While most people might not consider a 173-year-old house their idea of the perfect home, the Web has opened up such possibilities to those who aren't enthralled by newer homes. It's simply one more area of real estate the Web has made accessible to people across the country. Without the Web, Camacho said, none of this would've been possible, including Michigan preservationists finding someone who even wanted the home.

"The house definitely would have been demolished," she said. "I don't think they could have found somebody without the Internet."

The Camachos adopted the 18th century David Wilcox home after abandoning their plans to build a replica Victorian. To their disappointment, what they once thought were design flaws with replica Victorians were actually modern code requirements. They'd have to apply for code variances if they built the house the way they wanted, and there was no guarantee they'd get them.

They wanted an older style home, but Don Camacho didn't want to move to an urban area

where most older homes exist. They couldn't afford one in the country since those usually include acres of land. Instead, the couple researched the idea of buying a house and moving it to their redwood-tree covered land.

They made an offer on a local house, but the deal fell through when the topic of moving it came up. Disappointed, the couple started snooping online and discovered many old houses that needed new homes in different locations. They liked one house in New York, but would've had to move it within a week.

Camacho found such short notice common with houses slated for demolition. That's why she was surprised when she saw the Wilcox house online and learned the developer and owner of the house was willing to help the couple move the house from its original location in Shelby Township, north of Detroit.

Vicki Papesh, a member of the

Marci Camacho, who found the listing after following different links from house moving Web sites. She and Don Camacho flew out to see the house twice, testing to make sure it was in good condition. They eventually decided to dismantle it, move it to California and pay the developer a \$1 commemorative coin Marci Camacho had saved as a good luck charm.

Shelby Township Historical Committee, put the house listing online. Papesh inquired about the house after seeing it empty and discovered the parcel was slated for future development. She wanted to save the house, given its historical significance.

Built by pioneers who came to Michigan from New York in the first wave of westward migration, the house has a form and style fairly typical of affluent early

Greek Revival, Papesh said. But the house's timber framing is heavy and robust and it still had nearly all of its original windows, doors, flooring and hardware. The house's architecture and joinery, all peg-and-hole, are historically significant.

Local efforts to save the home failed, so Papesh posted information about the house on several


See MOVE, Page B13

GLENVIEW DUPLEX


1100 Norwood Avenue
Open Sunday ~ 1 to 4:30 pm

Fabulous "San Francisco style" flats, original details intact, high ceilings, hardwood floors, fireplaces, elegant formal rooms, terraced rear garden; each unit with two bedrooms, one bath. Located just off Trestle Glen Road, this impressive 1920s Tudor duplex displays the architectural grandeur and fine workmanship of the era.

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Offered at \$425,000

Open Sunday
March 13th
2 - 4:30


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JUST LISTED

626 Jean Street, Oakland
Open Sun. 2-4:30 pm



♪ This fabulous condo on Jean It truly has to be seen From the top of a hill Is a view which will thrill Come visit and see ... it's a dream! ♪


2BD, 2BA Listed at \$505,000

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Move

FROM PAGE B12
 board Web sites in 2002. Two New England architectural firms contacted her about buying the house and scavenging just the frame. The goal, however, was to preserve the house intact.

They've made many new friends, and both enjoy the challenge of moving the house. Marci Camacho also likes the idea that they've saved a house from demolition and aren't using a ton of new materials to build their home.

Enter Marci Camacho, who found the listing after following different links from house moving Web sites. She and Don flew out to see the house twice, testing to make sure it was in good condition. They eventually decided to purchase it. Marci Camacho paid the developer a \$1 commemorative coin Marci Camacho saved as a good luck charm. It would've cost about \$100,000 to have a company professionally dismantle and move the house, and the Camachos couldn't afford that. Instead, they created an elaborate labeling system for each piece and dismantled it themselves with lots of help from volunteers. Marci Camacho found many of them through Web sites of local preservation groups.

Now, it has to be pieced back together. A timber framing company joined the frame, but the Camachos must work with a general contractor to put the rest together.

Marci Camacho, a landscape architect, will only work part-time for the next few months so that she can oversee the project.

Marci Camacho won't say how much the project will cost, mainly because she hasn't sat down to figure it all up. Plus, she doesn't want to discourage anyone or falsely encourage anyone who thinks it's an easy inexpensive endeavor. By the time winter comes and this year, the couple plans to have a roof on the house and continue with the assembly next spring. But even as assembly continues, the Camachos are working on details with the county, such as how many light and electrical outlets the house must have. That's just one of many red tape issues they've dealt with so far. Still, the hassle has been worth it when it's completed, the house instantly become Sonoma County's oldest. The house, which is a style uncommon in the area, has delighted everyone who worked on it or seen pictures of its distinctive look.

A friend said, "Good God, it looks like Paul Revere lived there," Marci Camacho said. "It's just not the style you see in California." They've made many new friends, and both enjoy the challenge of moving the house. Marci Camacho also likes the idea that they've saved a house from demolition and aren't using a ton of new materials to build their home. "It just feels like it's kind of a new situation in all sorts of ways," Camacho said. And it's a labor of love that began with simple Web surfing, despite the idea being a completely different way from what the couple originally envisioned.

"We just wanted something historic," Marci Camacho said. To know: We follow recent home buyers who used the Web to find rural property of their dreams.

Visit www.inman.com for more real estate articles

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NEW LISTING



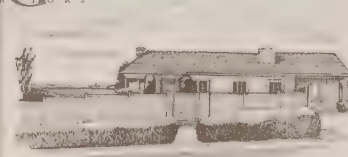
7670 Terrace Avenue, El Cerrito
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OPEN SUN., 2 - 4:30
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nancy.hinkley@prudential.com
 342 Highland Ave., Piedmont



OPEN SUNDAY

Open Sunday, March 13
 2:00 - 4:30

1 W. Embarcadero #157,
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 List Price \$279,000

This one bedroom/ one bath condominium is in the desirable Portobello complex. This unit has been tastefully updated with Pergo floors, designer paint colors, new cabinets, new countertops, new dishwasher, new range, new bathroom amenities and new carpet.



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CROCKER HIGHLANDS

Open Sunday
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Just Listed
 1234 Trestle Glen Road
 Offered at \$739,000



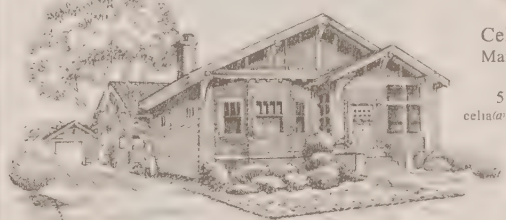
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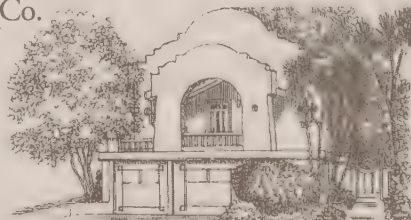
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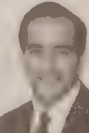


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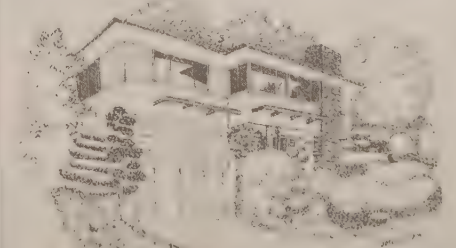
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 Marvin Gardens Real Estate ~ Berkeley



1062 Peralta Avenue, Albany

The inviting front porch greets you to this spacious, light-filled two bedroom home. Large open living & dining room perfect for entertaining. Lovely hardwood floors and a charming fireplace, kitchen with breakfast nook, deck & huge rear yard. Plus a separate home office! Great location near tennis courts, park & Solano Avenue amenities.

3 br, 3 bath home with bonus room/possible 4th bedroom. Spacious light-filled living room, fireplace, hardwood floors and beautiful ceiling detail in this room and dining ell. Family room with fireplace and view of patio with cascading waterfall. Offered at \$987,000



Doris Alexander
 Marvin Gardens
 El Cerrito
 510.559.2938

Open Sunday 13th & 20th March, 1:00-4:00

Brown buds bust blossoms

Q. I'm having a problem with the blossoms on my rhododendron. The flowers open up and then dry up quickly. Last year, the buds just turned brown. What should I do to prevent or correct this problem this year?

A. The primary causes for rhododendron blossoms to dry up and turn brown prematurely are insects and fungus. Of the two, I'd suspect Thrips is your problem. Thrips are an insect with both sucking and rasping mouth parts. They attack both the flowers and the foliage of rhododendrons, azaleas and many other plants.

They are small insects, about an eighth of an inch long, very narrow and black in color. They are visible to the naked eye when you shake a damaged flower over a flat, white surface. Instead of a dark green, the damaged leaves are a silvery color as the insect strips away the chlorophyll or green leaf layer. Horticultural oil will suffocate any of the exposed insects and I would apply it now.

For longer control, apply either the "Bayer Advance 2 in 1 Azalea, Camellia, Rhododendron Care" or the "Rose Care" product. These products have a systemic insecticide that is absorbed by the roots and then distributed throughout the plants. The second cause is a fungal disease called Bud Blast; otherwise, known as pycnos-tysanus. It can also occur on Azaleas.

The dead give-away to this problem is that the buds are covered with tiny hairs that have a circular structure at the end. Bud Blast is best control by good sanitation practices and by spraying with a copper fungicide in February/March. The ground around each plant should be cleaned of all dead leaves and other organic

debris. The old flowers should be deadheaded that is the manually removing of the spent flowers.

Q. Last fall, I moved into a duplex with a lawn that was very dead. After putting seed down, I still have several bare spots even with all the watering and rain. It has come a long way but still needs some care. What else can I do to get the great looking lawn I've always wanted?

A. Right now, it is early to sow seed in order to repair the bare spots in turf but you could re sod the areas now, if that was an option. I'd wait until the middle of March and then reseed the bare spots when the temperatures are warmer, this will increase the

seed germination rate. I prefer to over seed the entire area instead of patching specific areas. This would fill in and thicken up those areas that are just thin but not bare. Also, this gives the turf a consistent color and texture instead of having certain areas stand out from the rest.

There are three keys to a great looking grass; a regular watering schedule, feed it regularly and mowing it weekly with a sharp mower. A final note, before re-seeding you should double check that the sprinklers are adequate. If not make the necessary repairs and/or corrections before re-seeding.

Q. I have two four-year-old wisterias planted on an arbor but they haven't bloomed. Last year, I spaded around the root area as suggested in the Sunset Western Garden Book. Is there anything else I can do to get them to bloom?

A. Wisterias have been known to bloom after disturbing and/or severing the surface roots. This should be done by spading or raking vigorously under the drip line in the late fall. Wisterias are an aggressive grower. They need to be pruned to keep them under control and out of the surrounding plants. Year round light pruning is suggested.

It is not beneficial to severely prune them in the winter months. Wisterias are best pruned after the spring blooming period. This is sometime between Easter and Mothers Day. It will vary depending on the variety and tempera-

tures. Last year, they all bloomed early because of the very warm March. I'd also test the soil for its pH. If the soil pH is to high Wisterias don't bloom. Wisterias like a pH of under 7.0. A simple pH kit is available at many garden centers.

To lower the pH, apply Greenall pH Adjuster, or Soil Sulfur. It is best applied in November but go ahead and use it now, as you got nothing to lose. I'd hold off judgment on the blooming until the spring of 2006.

Q. How do I take care of the kumquat sitting on my front porch? I've been told it should be fertilized either before it fruits or just after to be sure to get colorful fruit. What fertilizer should I use and when? Also, how much sun is required?

A. Kumquats are treated just like lemons, lime, oranges and all



BUZZ BENTOLEN
The Dirt Gardener

the rest of the citrus family require frequent fertilizing to plenty of moisture. Consult the recommended fertilizing schedule for citrus plants. It is applied March through October.

See BUZZ, Page B1



This is a MUST ATTEND EVENT with John Exline who has been successfully developing wealth plans for thousands of homeowners in the East Bay area since 1985

An Event with JOHN EXLINE

- Find out why Real Estate will outperform the stock market.
- Learn how to earn another \$500,000 dollar tax free capital gain!
- Take your retirement plans from "Fuzzy" to "Clear"

Hi, I'm John Exline and I'd like to invite you to a FREE Seminar, this Saturday called: Generating Wealth in Bay Area Real Estate!

Generating Wealth in Bay Area Real Estate!

If you're like most people, you've made way more from the value of your Home than from your Stock Portfolio and/or Retirement Plan combined!

Many of our clients tell us they would need to make \$25,000 to \$50,000 a year from their investments in the next 10 to 20 years to have a decent retirement, yet for most this is not likely to happen with stock market investments.

- Did you Know Real Estate Investments can give 5-10 times better returns and be TAX FREE?
- Are you concerned about Social Security and retirement?
- Confused about all the hype about interest rates and real estate financing?

What You'll Learn at the Seminar:

Whether you currently own one house or ten, you will learn NEW techniques to take you to the next level in building your real estate portfolio in the fastest and safest ways possible.

I'll share stories from my successful clients to show you how to:

- Acquire the most real estate with your current assets and income.
- Use recent tax laws to give you tax free or tax deferred gains in wealth.
- Use your 401K or IRA's to acquire real estate.
- Arrange Equity Share agreements to benefit you, your family, and partners.
- Know the best types of properties to acquire and why.

THIS IS A FREE SEMINAR. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO BUY. PLEASE JOIN US THIS SATURDAY AT 10:30A.M.

San Ramon Marriott

2600 Bishop Drive • San Ramon

Directions: Hwy-680 to Bollinger exit (East), 1st left on to Sunset, 2nd left on to Bishop, follow to the Marriott

THIS WEEK'S OPEN HOME GUIDE IS ON B21.

COLDWELL BANKER

www.CaliforniaMoves.com

Berkeley 510.486.1495 • Oakland 510.339.4700

BY APPOINTMENT

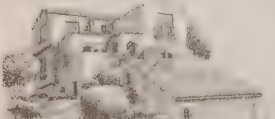
BERKELEY \$7,250,000
9BD 5.5 BA This historical estate includes a second house w/3BR/3BA, 2 guest cottages & tennis court.

Kim & Barbara Marienthal
510.486.1495



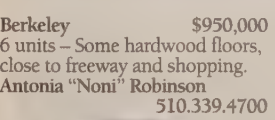
Oakland \$1,550,000
Crocker Highlands. 4 BR 3 full BA + 2 half. Stately, spacious traditional. Private park-like backyard, great neighborhood, beautifully renovated, light-filled, Old World Charm.

Dian Hymer 510.339.4700



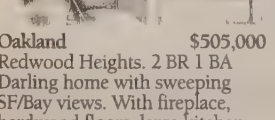
Rockridge \$1,295,000
Upper Rockridge. 4 BR 3 BA Tuscan styling & Bay views. Exquisite home w/fam rm, flml dr, office, gourmet kit & lev yd.

Darcy Diamantine 510.339.4700



Berkeley \$950,000
6 units - Some hardwood floors, close to freeway and shopping.

Antonia "Noni" Robinson 510.339.4700



Oakland \$505,000
Redwood Heights. 2 BR 1 BA Darling home with sweeping SF/Bay views. With fireplace, hardwood floors, large kitchen w/dining area & 2 car garage.

Nader Davari 510.339.4700

BY APPOINTMENT

Temescal \$429,000
Temescal. 2 BR 1 BA. Affordable starter home. W/character & detail. Rear addition, fenced yd & det. workshop!

George Karsant 510.339.4700

Oakland \$375,000
3 BR 1 BA. A fixer on a huge lot. Consider the possibilities. 1 bath is not permitted.

Reva Tolbert 510.339.4700



OPEN HOUSES

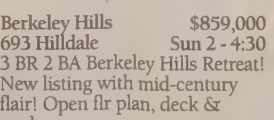
Piedmont \$1,695,000
65 Wyngaard Ave. Sun 2 - 4:30
4 BR 3.5 BA Traditional w/great architectural details, great in-outdoor living, sunny back yard

Ellen Lancaster 510.339.4700



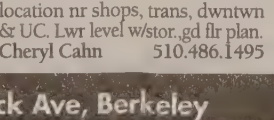
Berkeley \$1,175,000
2877 Shasta Rd. Sun 2 - 4:30
4 BR 3 BA Quality! Newly renovated, FDR, FP, EIK, HDWD floors, Tranquil & Sophisticated!

Terry Anthony & Leslie Wei 510.339.4700



Berkeley Hills \$859,000
693 Hilldale Sun 2 - 4:30
3 BR 2 BA Berkeley Hills Retreat! New listing with mid-century flair! Open flr plan, deck & garden.

Nancy Reichert 510.486.1495



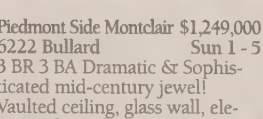
Berkeley \$395,000
1721 Berkeley Way #2 Sun 2 - 4:30
2 BR 1 BA Condo in convenient location nr shops, trans, dwnwn & UC. Lwr level w/stor. gd flr plan.

Cheryl Cahn 510.486.1495

OPEN HOUSES

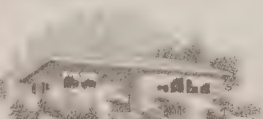
Piedmont Side Montclair \$1,249,000
6222 Bullard Sun 1 - 5
3 BR 3 BA Dramatic & Sophisticated mid-century jewel! Vaulted ceiling, glass wall, elegance abounds!

Donna Conroy 510.339.4700



Oakmore \$799,999
1929 Oakview Drive Sun 2 - 4:30
4 BR 3 BA Spectacular Views on both levels! Spacious rooms.

Reva Tolbert 510.339.4700



Montclair \$799,000
5601 Snake Road Sun 2 - 4:30
3 BR 3 BA All level w/ 2 fncd yds, chefs kit, sep structure use as guest qtrs/office fam rm off kit.

Judy Ackerman 510.339.4700



Montclair \$749,000
10 Larry Lane Sun 2 - 4:30
3 BR 2 BA Great fix-up potential! 3+ bedrm on 1 level. Large lot, great outdoors, updated kitchen.

Dian Hymer & Joan Duffield 510.339.4700



OPEN HOUSES

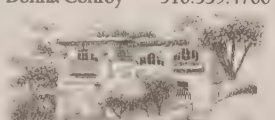
Oakland \$649,500
1015 MLK Jr. Way Sun 1 - 5
4 BR 2 BA Large and elegant duplex in the Preservation Park area of Oakland.

Gene Della Maggiora 510.486.1495



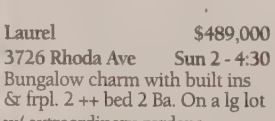
Oakland \$628,000
831 55Th St Sun 2 - 4:30
2 homes/1 lot FAB! 2BR/1BA home w/ xtra space. 1BR/1BA cottage = Good income/shared living.

Donna Conroy 510.339.4700



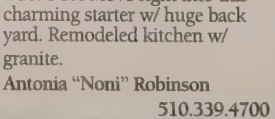
Crocker Highlands \$600,000
967 Grosvenor Place Sun 2 - 4:30
3 BR 2 BA Charming fixer. Formal dining room, eat-in kitchen and big living room.

Terry Kulka 510.339.4700



Laurel \$489,000
3726 Rhoda Ave Sun 2 - 4:30
Bungalow charm with built ins & frpl. 2 ++ bed 2 Ba. On a lg lot w/ extraordinary gardens.

Claudia Bowman & Preston Grant 510.339.4700



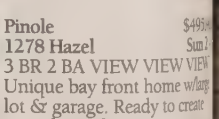
Oakland \$329,000
3828 Brookdale Ave Sun 2 - 4:30
2 BR 1 BA Move right into this charming starter w/ huge back yard. Remodeled kitchen w/ granite.

Antonia "Noni" Robinson 510.339.4700

OPEN HOUSES

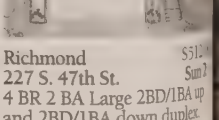
Pinole \$629,000
2840 Poulos Ct. Sun 1:30 - 4:30
3 BR 2.5 BA Hill home w/1600 sq ft on 16,000+ sq ft lot. Mstr bdrm retreat, frpl, Must see!

Gregg Lustig 510.486.1495



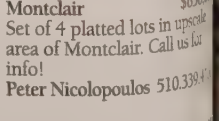
Pinole \$499,000
1278 Hazel Sun 2 - 4:30
3 BR 2 BA VIEW VIEW VIEW Unique bay front home w/ large lot & garage. Ready to create your dream home

Michelle Holm 510.486.1495



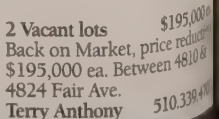
Richmond \$512,000
227 S. 47th St. Sun 2 - 4:30
4 BR 2 BA Large 2BD/1BA up and 2BD/1BA down duplex. Lower unit tenant occupied. Near BART and trans.

Jerri Thomas 510.486.1495



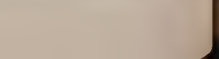
Montclair \$650,000
Set of 4 platted lots in upscale area of Montclair. Call us for info!

Peter Nicolopoulos 510.339.4700



Montclair \$394,000
Huge land parcel! Top of Sbrante Rd. Area of upscale new construction! Call us for info.

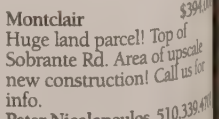
Peter Nicolopoulos 510.339.4700



LOTS

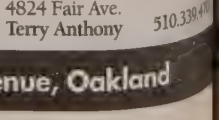
Montclair \$650,000
Set of 4 platted lots in upscale area of Montclair. Call us for info!

Peter Nicolopoulos 510.339.4700



Montclair \$394,000
Huge land parcel! Top of Sbrante Rd. Area of upscale new construction! Call us for info.

Peter Nicolopoulos 510.339.4700



2 Vacant lots \$195,000 ea.
Back on Market, price reduced to \$195,000 ea. Between 4810 & 4824 Fair Ave.

Terry Anthony 510.339.4700

1495 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley

COLDWELL BANKER
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

6137 La Salle Avenue, Oakland

RED OAK REALTY | Homes Open Sunday

To sign up for daily email updates or for other Real Estate information, visit www.redoakrealty.com.



BERKELEY \$725,000
HOME + INCOME - 1 bedroom cottage and duplex for income, plus 1,000 sq. ft. of storage, plus off-street parking. Hardwood floors, upgrades, charm, great location!
1236 Hopkins/1229-31 Rose Open 2-4:30



BERKELEY - NEW! \$349,000
1/1 - Tastefully updated condo in top floor corner of a 6-unit Traditional building. Remodeled kitchen and bath. Near shops, UC Berkeley, and BART.
1825 Vine Street #5 Open 2-4



BERKELEY - NEW! \$779,000
3/2 - Come home to this classic Craftsman on a great street in the heart of North Berkeley. Basement, garage, huge yard too! More info & photos at www.heidandjerry.com.
1112 Fresno Avenue Open 2-4



BERKELEY - NEW! \$399,000
3/1 - Sunny, spacious California bungalow with architectural details & loads of charm. In need of some TLC but well worth it! Large country kitchen, wood floors, not tub & more!
3409 California Street Open 2-4



KENSINGTON - NEW! \$799,000
4/1.5 - Breathtaking views of San Francisco and the Golden Gate from this wonderful brown shingle. In-law, garage with interior access, off-street parking for 3 cars.
414 Beloit Avenue Open 2-4



OAKLAND - NEW! \$835,000
3+1/2 - Wonderful two story Craftsman in the heart of Rockridge. Updated kitchen & baths, hardwood & Douglas fir floors, 1,725 sq. ft. of living space, front & rear yards, more!
6008 Auburn Avenue Open 2-4:30



OAKLAND \$399,000
PENTHOUSE - Sweet, sun-filled 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath with mini office, two private decks. Spacious, classy yet comfortable, secure parking, fireplace, new carpets
375 Jayne Avenue Open 2-4:30



OAKLAND \$689,000
3+1 - Charming Adams Point Craftsman features a formal dining room, hardwood floors, attached garage, loads of storage all on a large parcel. Close to Lakeshore Ave & Lake Merritt
353 Warwick Avenue Open 2-4:30

OAKLAND - NEW! \$529,000
2/2 - Spacious, completely renovated from the ground up! No expense spared. New everything (plumbing, electrical, roof, interior walls, stucco, etc.) Clear Pest! More!
760 55th Street Open 2-4

OAKLAND \$145,000
COMMERCIAL - Retail commercial space in 43-unit historic live/work complex. Soundproofing in ceiling, sink, custom lighting, concrete slab floor. (Not a live unit)
730 29th Street #113 Open 2-4

OAKLAND \$199,000
RAW SPACE - Light industrial/commercial condo with roll-up door (Not a live unit) in 43-unit historic live/work complex. Stationary tub & 1 assigned parking space. 1,205 sq. ft.
730 29th Street #115 Open 2-4

OAKLAND \$359,000
1/1 - Wonderful end-unit live/work loft in historic 43-unit complex with painted wood floors, updated bath, secure parking, carpeted sleeping mezzanine, storage unit, more!
730 29th Street #208 Open 2-4

CONGRATULATIONS TO RED OAK REALTY'S TOP PRODUCERS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2005!

LEIF JENSSEN Solano Avenue
KIMBERLY MILLER Pleasant Valley
JERRY RATCH College Avenue
MARK & KATIE LEDERER Top Team Producers



[march 13th]

RED OAK REALTY

North Berkeley Classic



1112 FRESNO AVENUE, BERKELEY

JUST LISTED - Classic 3 bedroom, 2 bath Craftsman on a great street in the heart of North Berkeley. Big basement, huge yard, garage with workshop space. See a photo tour at www.heidandjerry.com. LISTED AT \$779,000

OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 13TH 2-4PM

Heidi & Jerry Long, Realtors®

DIRECT: 510-835-6218 WEB: www.heidandjerry.com

Established 1976



RED OAK REALTY

www.redoakrealty.com

2099 Pleasant Valley Oakland, CA 94611



RED OAK REALTY

Renovated From the Ground Up!



760 55TH STREET
OAKLAND

OPEN SUNDAYS

MARCH 13TH & 20TH 1-4 PM

No expense was spared on this spacious renovated Craftsman. Located in the heart of North Oakland this two bedroom, two bathroom home combines original charm and detail with modern amenities. The beautifully remodeled kitchen features new cabinetry, granite countertops and top of the line appliances. The master bedroom boasts French doors that lead to a beautiful redwood deck and overlooks a lovely landscaped yard. You'll also find a large walk-in closet and new Berber carpeting. Both bathrooms feature Italian tiles and pedestal sinks. The dining room has original craftsman-style built-in cabinetry with lead-inlay glass doors and a classic fireplace remains in the living room. The home is equipped with new plumbing, heating and electric systems, as well as a brand new 30-year roof. The foundation has been seismically upgraded with bolts and shear paneling. The interior has been freshly painted with decorator colors and the hardwood floors have been refinished. Its move-in ready with a clear pest report!
LISTED AT \$529,000

Saraya Motley, Realtor®

DIRECT: 510-280-2162 WEB: www.eastbayhouse.com

RED OAK REALTY

Home + Income in Great North Berkeley Neighborhood!



1236 HOPKINS STREET & 1229-31 ROSE STREET
BERKELEY

This triplex has it all: a charming 1 bedroom brown-shingle cottage near Monterey Market and Cafe Fanny PLUS a duplex behind it for income PLUS 1,000 sq. ft. for workshop/storage PLUS 4 off-street parking places. Hardwood floors in all units, many upgrades. Photos at www.redoakrealty.com. LISTED AT \$725,000

ALL UNITS OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 13TH 2-4:30PM

Jeanne Lengsfelder, Realtor®

DIRECT: 510-280-2106 EMAIL: jeannelengs@sbcbglobal.net

Established 1976



RED OAK REALTY

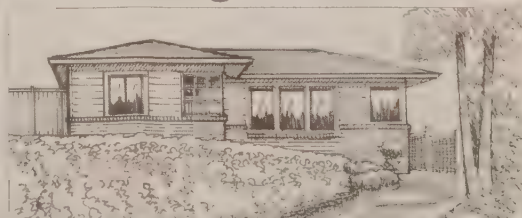
www.redoakrealty.com

1891 Solano Avenue Berkeley, CA 94707



RED OAK REALTY

Kensington Retreat



268 LOS ALTOS DRIVE, KENSINGTON

Spectacular 2 bedroom home in a serene setting atop Tilden Park with Canyon views. Vaulted ceilings, top of the line gourmet kitchen with granite counters, Viking appliances, cherry cabinets. Sun room, back patio. Photos and more at www.bobblumberg.com. LISTED AT \$659,000

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Bob Blumberg, Realtor®

DIRECT: 510-527-0344 WEBSITE: www.BobBlumberg.com

Can cut in commission lower tax liability?

Q. We are currently in the process of buying a new house. We are trying to find ways to reduce our monthly expenses. Our loan broker suggested this to us: We should ask the seller to reduce the purchase price by the commissions owed and then we, the buyers, pay the commissions. This will then lower the annual property taxes because the purchase price is lower and the net profit for the seller remains the same.

For example, if the purchase price is \$1 million and the commissions paid to the agents are \$60,000, then the purchase price would be changed to \$940,000, and we pay the \$60,000 in commissions. Annual property tax is paid on

\$940,000 and not \$1 million.

Have you ever heard of this? What are the pro and cons for doing this? The outcome appears to have the benefit of a lower property tax bill. There doesn't appear to be any disadvantages. Are there disadvantages that I'm missing? Is this done often?

A. Without knowing the seller's contractual obligations to the brokers involved, I am not sure how to answer this. I will try to answer this through a hypothetical situation extended from your example.

Most likely, the brokerage commission will still be owed by the seller based on the newly agreed sales price (\$940,000). That would mean the seller will get less money.

The property taxes on a parcel will be due on the "market value" of the property, not the sales price.

I know that California's Proposition 13 has restrictions on increases during ownership, but it is my understanding that upon a market sale of property, the new assessed value will be based on the "market value" of the property and not just the

sales price. (I've been informed that there may be exceptions for sales within the state in "reciprocity" counties where you can transfer your old assessed value to the new property - but I'm not going there in this response.)

So, there should be any benefit gained because the market value of your property is not JUST

the sales price for that property, it is going to be estimated by the sales prices of many, many similar properties in the relevant market area, including your sale. I don't see any advantage to either you or the seller.

Q. I purchased a home in 1975, in which I assumed a \$16,000 note and the previous owner carried a \$10,000 second lien for 10 years (yes, way back then those were prices for a house). In 1986 I borrowed \$3,800 for a new central air/heating unit from a bank for

seven years. All the payments were paid off in a lump sum. When I paid the \$3,800, I

See HAMILTON

MOVE-IN READY!

LAUREL LANE

10 DUET STYLE HOMES IN A GATED VILLAGE

\$485,000 and up

ELEGANTLY DESIGNED • BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED
LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE LAUREL DISTRICT

- Approx 1,100-1,200 Sq Ft
- 2 double master bedrooms, 2 1/2 bath
- Granite slab kitchen countertops
- Stainless steel appliances
- Hardwood kitchen cabinets
- Bamboo flooring
- Crown moulding
- Washer/dryer
- Natural stone gas fireplace in every unit
- Beautifully landscaped front and back yard
- Set back from the street, it offers a genuine "village" charm that will make you feel like you are home.

Open House 10:00-5:00

510-336-1200

3715 MAYBELLE AVE • OAKLAND • CA 94615

Security Pacific Real Estate Brokerage

3223 Blume Drive, Richmond
http://www.sprb.com 510-222-8870

EL CERRITO

MIRA VISTA HILLS CONTEMPORARY W/IEWS! \$599,000
2611 Mira Vista Dr. 2BR Upstairs w/remodeled Bath, Formal Dining Rm, Large eat-in kitchen & gorgeous refinished hardwood flrs. 1 large room downstairs, 2nd kitchen and full bath, lovely landscaped backyard w/pengola & patio, attached garage w/interior access, clear best report, new interior paint. #40057396
www.geristern.com Open Sun 1:30-4 510-662-8469

FABULOUS 2 STORY HOME W/ST & BAY VIEWS IN MIRA VISTA \$649,000
2628 Mira Vista Dr. 4BR 2BA 2 added solarium. Family rm, remodeled eat-in kitchen, gleaming hardwood flrs, creamy cut Berber carpets, new interior paint, 2 car att. garage w/inter access, move-in condition.
www.carladellazoppa.com Open Sun 1:30-4 510-662-8558

STUNNING CONTEMPORARY IN THE HILLS WITH VIEWS \$1,150,000
1315 Rifle Range 5 BR 3.5 BA Almost 4000 sq. ft., Excellent condition! Huge living room and family rooms with fireplaces, full legal inlaw downstairs, 2 car attached garage, remodeled kitchen and baths, new cherrywood floors, new roof, paint and clear Termite report. Huge Master suite. Don't miss it! #40056192
www.carladellazoppa.com 510-662-8558

RICHMOND VIEW

RICHMOND VIEW GEM! \$398,988
5011 Esmond 2BR 1BA Updated kitchen, great floor plan, w/sunny spacious kitchen, formal dining area, lovely refinished oak hardwood flrs, huge level backyard, and an attached garage. Move-in condition! #40065010
www.cynthiaburke.com Open Sun. 1-4 510-517-3326

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CONTRA COSTA TIMES MORTGAGE GUIDE

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| COMPANY | Loan Product | Rate/Points | APR/Lock | Loan Product | Rate/Points | APR/Lock | Loan Product | Rate/Points | APR/Lock | Loan Product | Rate/Points | APR/Lock | Comments |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|-------------|----------|-------------------|-------------|----------|---------------------|-------------|----------|--|
| Vanstar Financial | 30-yr Fixed | 5.625 | 0.000 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.625 | 0.750 | 5/1 ARM Jumbo | 4.750 | 0.750 | 1 Mo Interest only | 3.125 | 1.000 | We'll beat any bank's rates! 100% financing available! Commercial Loans Also do Nevada/Oregon/Colorado loans |
| 866-580-6771 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DRE# 01400745 | Fees=\$1410 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Washington Mutual Bank | 30-yr Fixed | 5.591 | 0.30 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.733 | 0.30 | 5/1 ARM | 4.815 | 0.30 | 30-yr Const/Perm | | | Purchases Close in just 7 days! No pre-approval! Pre-approval (866) 866-8666 |
| 925-256-7171 | | | | | | | | | | | | | Week days 9am-5pm |
| Wells Fargo Home Mtg. | 30-yr Fixed | 5.591 | 0.30 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.733 | 0.30 | 10/1 ARM w/o call | 4.815 | 0.30 | 5/1 ARM w/o call | | | LOCAL Call our Team Today! (925) 282-6071 |
| 925-267-6903 | | | | | | | | | | | | | Also do Nevada/Oregon/Colorado loans |
| Wells Fargo Home Mtg. | 30-yr Fixed | 5.591 | 0.30 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.733 | 0.30 | 5/1 ARM Jumbo | 4.815 | 0.30 | 10/1 ARM Jumbo | 5.500 | 0.000 | 100% to 1 ML - new Free Appraisal Credit Lines to 3 ML |
| 866-809-1502 | | | | | | | | | | | | | * Put in for loan |
| AAA Mortgage | 30-yr Fixed | 5.570 | 0.000 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.610 | 0.30 | 5/1 ARM Jumbo | 4.750 | 0.000 | 3/1 ARM Jumbo | 4.750 | 0.000 | OPEN WEEKENDS-LOCK YOUR RATE TODAY! INTEREST ONLY FIXED RATES-NO PREPAY GET PRE-APPROVED! APPLY OVER THE PHONE |
| 888-821-6200 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DRE# 01096148 | Fees=\$1595 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Absolute Mortgage Fund. | 30-yr Fixed | 5.375 | 0.500 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.750 | 0.000 | 15-yr Fixed | 5.000 | 0.125 | 5/1 ARM | 4.875 | 0.000 | LOWEST RATES AND FEES IN THE AREA! FREE FLOAT-DOWNS! FEES ARE ONLY \$1000 |
| 888-90-HOMES | | | | | | | | | | | | | CALL NOW! 888-90-HOMES |
| AlmLoan.com | 30-yr Fixed | 5.587 | 0.30 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.780 | 0.30 | 15-yr Fixed | 5.000 | 0.125 | 5/1 ARM Jumbo | 4.875 | 0.000 | Direct Lender * Guaranteed Rates & Fees Apply & Lock 24 hr * Open Sat/Sun 9am-4pm |
| 888-411-4246 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DRE# 01235124 | Fees=\$2400 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AmeriSave Mortgage Corp. | 30-yr Fixed | 5.625 | 0.000 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.750 | 0.000 | 3/1 ARM | 4.825 | 0.000 | 5/1 ARM | 4.875 | 0.000 | No closing costs loans available |
| 866-514-7283 | | | | | | | | | | | | | www.amerisave.com Best rates and lowest fees |
| DOC# 6038592 | Fees=\$1423 | | | | | | | | | | | | * Put in for loan |
| Bay Area Funding | 30-yr Fixed | 5.500 | 1.000 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.750 | 1.000 | 1st Time Buyer 30 | 4.375 | 1.000 | 1st Time Buyer 5/1 | 3.600 | 1.000 | 1ST TIME BUYER 30 yr. fix @ 4.375% 1st Time Buyer 5/1 yr. fix after Fed Subsidy Income & price limits 100% to 1 ML |
| 925-930-3100 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DRE# 769452 | Fees=\$2318 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BayCal Financial Corp. | 30-yr Fixed | 5.250 | 1.250 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.500 | 1.000 | 5/1 ARM Jumbo | 4.875 | 0.000 | 3/1 ARM Jumbo | 4.875 | 0.000 | 100% Home Financing Programs up to 1 ML Interest Only to 2 ML, 5 MOS, 31 yr 180 Days Lock. NEW Construction Home Pl |
| 877-288-8368 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DRE# 0116696 | Fees=\$1704 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cal First Lending | 30-yr Fixed | 5.250 | 2.000 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.750 | 2.000 | 15-yr Fixed | 4.750 | 2.000 | 5/1 ARM Jumbo | 4.750 | 1.500 | FAST APRVL, MARCH SPECIAL NO APRVL BAD CREDIT & BANKRUPTCY OK. HOME PL. Open Events and winds Call 877-414-8280 |
| 877-414-8280 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DRE# 01318954 | Fees=\$1623 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CMG Mortgage Services | 30-yr Fixed | 5.250 | 1.375 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.500 | 1.375 | 3/1 ARM Jumbo | 4.875 | 1.375 | 5/1 ARM Jumbo | 4.875 | 1.125 | OPEN SAT/SUN STATED OR NO INCOME - YOUR MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS |
| 800-958-5339 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DRE# 01370755 | Fees=\$1433 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Countrywide Home Loans | 30-yr Fixed | 5.421 | 0.30 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.640 | 0.30 | Pay Option ARM | 4.515 | 0.30 | 5/1 ARM Jumbo | 4.997 | 0.30 | FREE pre-approval. Reference 3rd home 100% financing! no doc stated income 10 day purchase close. Call 888-903-8888 |
| 877-434-3400 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ditech.com | 30-yr Fixed | 5.125 | 2.000 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.375 | 2.000 | 15-yr Fixed | 4.625 | 2.000 | 15-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.000 | 2.000 | Apply online at www.ditech.com |
| 800-616-8208 | | | | | | | | | | | | | YOUR mortgage solution. Delivered! |
| DOC# 8132004 | Fees=\$1890 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Downey Savings & Loan | 30-yr Fixed | 5.375 | 1.750 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.625 | 1.875 | 1-mo COPI ARM | 1.250 | 1.000 | 5/1 ARM Jumbo | 5.125 | 0.000 | Direct lender. 45 yrs experience. Fixed & adjustable rates. * Put neg. amort. Apply online at www.downeysavings.com |
| 800-798-2148 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DOC# 8037471 | Fees=\$1428 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| First Blackhawk Financial | 30-yr Fixed | 5.625 | 0.000 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.750 | 0.000 | 5/1 ARM Jumbo | 5.375 | 0.000 | 3/1 ARM Jumbo | 5.166 | 0.000 | JUMBO AND SUPER JUMBO SPECIAL! Call 7 days per week (800) 798-AMAR More rates at www.1st-blackhawk.com |
| 800-796-MARY | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DRE# 01144055 | Fees=\$1886 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Golden Gate Home Loans | 30-yr Fixed | 5.375 | 0.000 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.750 | 0.000 | 3/1 ARM Jumbo | 4.825 | 0.000 | 1-yr ARM | 4.000 | 0.000 | 100% Financing. No Income Verif. Avail. 1-yr ARM 1.0-700K+2333.500K+1666.66K "700 FICO" Jumbos: 700 FICO's 3 yr term |
| 877-246-5899 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DOC# 8052720 | Fees=\$1948 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Imperial Mortgage | 30-yr Fixed | 5.250 | 1.000 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.500 | 1.000 | 5/1 Interest Only | 4.825 | 1.000 | No 5 Down 30-yr Fxd | 6.990 | 1.000 | DON'T BE "LURED IN" BY LOW QUOTES! WE ARE FOR AN HONEST LOCKABLE RATE! WHY I GET TONS REFERRALS! BAD CREDIT |
| 800-961-2274 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DRE# 01033832 | Fees=\$1453 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mortgage Market | 30-yr Fixed | 5.375 | 0.000 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.625 | 0.000 | 15-yr Fixed | 4.825 | 0.000 | 5/1 ARM Jumbo | 5.500 | 0.000 | Great Purchase. Refinance. Construction. Home Equity. 100% LTV Loans Great Service. Over 25 years in Business |
| 800-537-5626 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DRE# 00897562 | Fees=\$1875 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pacific West Financial | 30-yr Fixed | 5.625 | 0.000 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.875 | 0.000 | 5/1 ARM Jumbo | 5.375 | 0.000 | 3/1 ARM | 4.825 | 0.000 | 100% purchase/Credit problems OK. Interest Only Loans/BK OK |
| 800-798-7334 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DRE# 0124581 | Fees=\$1694 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Saratoga Bancorp | 30-yr Fixed | 5.625 | 0.000 | 30-yr Fxd Jumbo | 5.875 | 0.000 | 15-yr Fixed | 5.414 | 0.000 | 5/1 ARM | 4.711 | 0.000 | Good Credit Has Its Rewards! No Income Check Loan 1st or 2nd Mortgage Purch/Refit to 100% saratogabancorp.com |
| 800-935-6266 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DRE# 0120326 | Fees=\$1893 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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Rates based on \$175,000 loan for single family residence. Jumbo rates (loans in excess of \$359,650) based on \$400,000 loan. All rates are believed to be accurate but not guaranteed and are subject to change without notice. Minimum downpayment requirements and other restrictions may vary. Closing costs may vary. Contact each company for complete origination and discount fees. APR = annual percentage rate and is calculated by each company - includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance. Lock=rate lock period. ARM=adjustable rate mortgage. Companies pay a fee to be in this Guide. *Ave 30 yr. fixed conforming with 0 points. Fees are estimated costs. \$175,000 purchase money loan and may vary from loan to loan. These are not inclusive of all costs and do not include points, prepaid interest, title insurance or escrow fees. "Fees" in "Current Mortgage Rates" section of website - contact each company for details. Copyright 2003, INFOTRAK National Data Services and Knight Financial Group.

If you would like to be included in this Mortgage Guide, please call 781-276-1711

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ROCKRIDGE

OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2-4:30PM



400 60th Street, Oakland
Offered at \$589,000

This quintessential Rockridge bungalow abounds with traditional architectural detail. Newer kitchen and bath, featuring a wonderful Wedgewood stove and claw foot tub. A newly fenced and landscaped garden/patio add to the polish. Super location!



Steven Biasatti
510.338.1379



Jack McPhail
510.338.1336

NEW BERKELEY LISTING

OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2-4:30PM

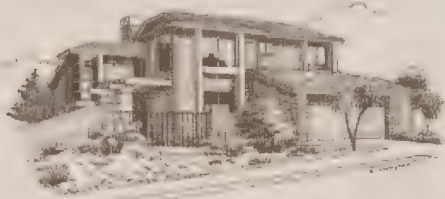


1415 Arch Street, Berkeley
Offered at \$1,350,000

Magestic Victorian close to Gourmet Ghetto. Very tastefully restored and upgraded. Wonderful spaces. Some views. 3++ bedrooms, 2 baths.

NEW RIDGEMONT LISTING

OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2-4:30PM



6026 Ridgemont Drive, Oakland
Offered at \$925,000

Soaring ceilings, a dramatic 2-story dining room and a generous floor plan are just a few of the many features of this beautiful Ridgemont home. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths including a first floor bedroom and bath. Eat-in kitchen with new granite counters. Spacious master suite with fireplace and private balcony. Family room with fireplace. Peaceful, level backyard. Perfect for easy living, entertaining, work and play.



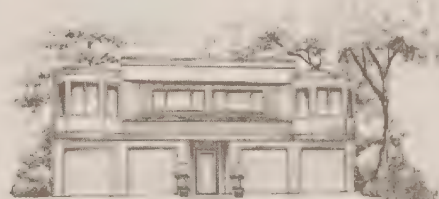
Robyn Mohr
510.338.1310



Sandi Klemmer
510.338.1314

NEW GLENVIEW LISTING

OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2-4:30PM



4050 Everett Avenue, Oakland
Offered at \$469,000

This unique condominium is one of four units in a well maintained building in the heart of the popular Glenview district. Its 2-story style gives a home-like feel with an open living room and dining room with the bedrooms downstairs. This comfortable space is accented by two decks with restful wooded hill views. Living room with fireplace, 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, garage, laundry & storage.

OPEN SUNDAY 2:00-4:30



MONTCLAIR
6550 GWIN RD.
\$1,875,000
Dramatic custom contemporary in spectacular setting. Located at the end of a cul-de-sac on an approx. 40,000 sq. ft. lot. Sparkling San Francisco Bay & serene hill views. 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 4100+/- sq. ft. Joanna Hirsch x1366

BERKELEY
1415 ARCH ST.
\$1,350,000
New Listing! Magestic Victorian close to Gourmet Ghetto. Very tastefully restored and upgraded. Wonderful spaces, some views. Three ++ bedrooms, two baths. Jack McPhail x1336 & Leslie Easterday x1363



PIEDMONT
114 INDIAN RD.
\$1,295,000
This spacious home is situated on a quiet cul-de-sac and offers beautiful hill views in a private setting. Recently remodeled, it provides a convenient floor plan with five bedrooms, three baths, and a fabulous kitchen. Martha Holstad x1312



GRAND LAKE
494 BOULEVARD WY
\$1,050,000
(Open 2-5)
New Listing! Charming, spacious 3BR/1.5BA home. Sunny, large living room, cute cat-in kitchen, large rumpus room, "plus" room, great patio, hardwood floors & nice yard. 1st time owner in 45 years. Vicki Woodhead x1334



LAUREL
3748 ENOS AVE.
\$399,000
(Open 2-5)
New Listing! Charming, spacious 3BR/1.5BA home. Sunny, large living room, cute cat-in kitchen, large rumpus room, "plus" room, great patio, hardwood floors & nice yard. 1st time owner in 45 years. Vicki Woodhead x1334

510.339.6460



OAKLAND
4309 TERRABELLA WY (Open Sat & Sun)
\$949,000
Dazzling 4-bridge view! Chic 4BR/3BA Mediterranean. Master retreat w/fireplace & deck. Kitchen/family room combo. Formal dining, decks, yard & extra developable space. Ashley O'Neill x1368 & Jennie A. Flanagan x1354



OAKLAND HILLS
4616 REDWOOD RD.
\$724,999
Stunning, tri-level Mediterranean style townhouse. Wooded views. Secluded flagstone patio. 3BR/2.5BA including large master suite w/designer master bath. Maple hardwood floors, formal dining, slate fireplace. Many upgrades. Nancy Hoover x1375



CROCKER HIGHLANDS
1021 HUBERT RD.
\$945,000
(Open 2-5)
Lovely Tudor on coveted street. 4+BR/3BA with elegant living and dining rooms, each w/French doors to spectacular deck. Small level garden. Garage & carport. Loaded with charm! Madalyn Mitchell x1385 & Nancy Moore x1302

MONTCLAIR
7000 RIDGEWOOD DR.
\$869,000
New Listing! Ever so charming traditional with hardwood floors, living, dining and family rooms plus cat-in kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths. In-law potential. Great level yard. Kathy Flynn x1317



UPPER ROCKRIDGE
\$1,695,000
Chic contemporary in desirable neighborhood. Under construction; spring completion. Generous spaces with plenty of natural light. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, office. David Ichikawa x1331

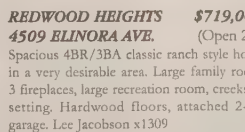
510.339.6460



MONTCLAIR
6918 THORNHILL DR.
\$749,000
Special 3BR/3BA home w/beautiful entry garden & covered courtyard. Asian details & bamboo floors are combined with 50s architecture. Wonderful back garden & decks. Media/play room, eat-in kitchen, bay views. Donna Costella x1355



REDWOOD HEIGHTS
4509 ELINORA AVE.
\$719,000
(Open 2-5)
Spacious 4BR/3BA classic ranch style home in a very desirable area. Large family room, 3 fireplaces, large recreation room, creekside setting. Hardwood floors, attached 2-car garage. Lee Jacobson x1309



ROCKRIDGE
400 60th ST.
\$589,000
This quintessential Rockridge bungalow abounds with traditional architectural detail. Newer kitchen & bath, featuring a wonderful Wedgewood stove & claw foot tub. Newly fenced & landscaped garden/patio. Super location! Steven Biasatti x1379

MONTCLAIR
11 CONRAD CT.
\$675,000
Ranch-style home designed and built in the 1950s. Heart redwood siding, recreation room, 2BR/2BA, hardwood floors. Views of surrounding oaks & pines. Deck & level yard area. Cindy Houts x1364



OAKLAND HILLS
\$1,500,000
New Listing! Unique 5BR/3.5BA jewel in a private setting on over an acre of land. Stunning bay views, magnificent grounds. Impressive & gracious entryway, formal dining & living rooms. Price includes 2nd lot. Diane E. McCan x1352

510.339.6460

UPPER ROCKRIDGE
100 BUCKEYE AVE.
\$699,000
4 bedroom, 2.5 bath contemporary. Bay views, hardwood floors, formal dining room, plus separate 1 bedroom in-law. Close to Hillcrest school and markets. Wendy Gardner-Ferrari x1303



PIEDMONT AVENUE
4117-4119 HOWE ST.
\$645,000
New Listing! Elegant 1911 craftsman duplex. Each spacious unit has 2BR/1BA. Gorgeous architectural details, built-ins, leaded glass windows. Updated kitchens. Near Piedmont Avenue shops and restaurants. Joan Dark x1316



LAUREL
3650 MAPLE AVE.
\$525,000
New Listing! Cheerful 3BR/2BA bungalow. Elegant rooms with generous light. Dining room w/cove ceilings & decorative shelves, secluded office, 1-car garage. Backyard w/flagstone patio & garden. David Ichikawa x1331

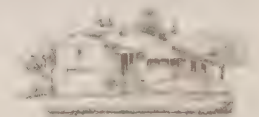


GLENVIEW
4050 EVERETT AVE.
\$469,000
New Listing! Unique 2BR/1.5BA condominium in the heart of the Glenview district. Open living room & dining area, fireplace, 2 decks w/wooded hill views, 1-car garage, laundry and storage. Sandi Klemmer x1314

RIDGEMONT
\$1,280,000
Prime lot with inspirational Bay & SF views. Secluded 1/2+ acre parcel located at the end of a cul-de-sac. Spectacular home design by Phillip Perkins. Minutes to Highway 13. David Ichikawa x1331

MONTCLAIR
\$699,000
Inviting & charming 3+BR/2BA bungalow surrounded by a secluded park-like site. Sunny deck & garden level out from spacious family room. Master suite w/charming plus room, remodeled cook's kitchen. Ideal location. Leslie Avant x1341

510.339.6460



OAKLAND
4420 HYACINTH AVE. (Open 2-5)
\$539,000
New Listing! Charming 2BR/1BA home on desirable street. Spacious eat-in kitchen w/adjoining laundry room. Attached garage. Wonderful rear & side yards w/lovely mature landscaping and patio area. Diane E. McCan x1352



NORTH OAKLAND
611 57th ST.
\$525,000
Craftsman gem with many desirable features. Hardwood floors, built-ins, box beam ceilings, 2BR/1BA, plus room, attached garage, and a recording studio. Great yard for entertaining. Tom Nemeth x1381

LAUREL
3650 MAPLE AVE.
\$525,000
New Listing! Cheerful 3BR/2BA bungalow. Elegant rooms with generous light. Dining room w/cove ceilings & decorative shelves, secluded office, 1-car garage. Backyard w/flagstone patio & garden. David Ichikawa x1331



GLENVIEW
4050 EVERETT AVE.
\$469,000
New Listing! Unique 2BR/1.5BA condominium in the heart of the Glenview district. Open living room & dining area, fireplace, 2 decks w/wooded hill views, 1-car garage, laundry and storage. Sandi Klemmer x1314



MONTCLAIR
\$619,000
Mid-century 2BR/1BA beauty. Walls of glass overlooking tranquil views. Hardwood floors, updated kitchen, generous front deck & back patio. Great location near Montclair Village. Robyn Mohr x1310

510.339.6460

BY APPOINTMENT



Alameda County • Marin County • Diablo Valley • Contra Costa County
Napa Valley • Sonoma County • San Francisco • Union Trust Mortgage



www.pacunion.com

Hamilton

FROM PAGE B16

I asked if there was any paperwork that needed to be done, and the previous owner didn't think so.

Now I find out (18 years after paying off the \$10,000 note and 14 years after paying off the \$3,800 note) that these two liens are still on my property.

I cannot find the previous owner and the bank is no longer there (nor anywhere, for that matter), so how can I go about having these liens taken off my property? I do have a "paid" document from the bank.

A. Bring all your documentation to your local (in Texas, I believe this is a county function) land record's office and ask them how to proceed. It may be a simple process of having a judge remove the liens through some court action.

To best expedite this matter, you may have to hire an attorney; or, if the stars are all in alignment, the land record's office may have the necessary forms for you to submit to the appropriate court venue for completion. I do not see this as a major problem since you should have all the proof necessary to show to the court that you have fulfilled your obligations that would release the liens.

Q. My mother died Dec. 30, 2003 at her permanent residence. She had my brother and I put on a quit-claim deed in 1996 although this was not our permanent residence. Immediately following her death, we had two comparative market analyses done on the home by two different Realtors.

One stated the fair market value at \$145,000 and the other between \$135,000 and \$142,000. We sold the house July 22, 2004 for \$129,000. How would we figure a capital gain or loss on the sale of the house?

A. Your capital gain or loss is determined by the difference between your adjusted basis in the property (for simplicity, the net book value) and its net selling price. Because you received a quit-claim deed for the property in 1996, that is when

your initial basis in the property was established.

However, depending on gift tax rules and other information not provided here, the hard answer as to how much of a gain or loss exists cannot be determined. My advice is for you to contact a tax attorney and/or CPA to help you through this process of determining your basis in the property as of the date of the quit-claim deed. Then, and only then, can you determine any gain or loss.

Q. I would like to share with you a problem that is mind-boggling to me. I entered into a standard real estate transaction to sell my property. Both buyer and seller were represented by real estate agents. The forms used to present the offer and the acceptance were the standard agreement forms used by all real estate agents in this part of Pennsylvania. The sale was presented as a cash offer, not contingent on financing, and the closing date was established.

Four days before the scheduled closing the buyer decided to withdraw his offer and through his agent presented me, the seller, with a re-

lease form to allow him to withdraw from the contract. He had found a different property, for less, and decided to purchase that property. The hand money that secured my contract was \$3,000. According to contract I could recover the hand money and I was limited to liquidated damages to the extent of the hand money.

Here is the problem; I was advised that the only way to collect the hand money was to file a claim in small claims court and have the hearing before a district magistrate to recover for default.

Since an offer and acceptance equals a contract, I filed a claim in magistrate court to recover the limit of the liquidated damages, which was the hand money. The district magistrate passed a judgment to the defendant with no reason given.

Obviously, the protection of a contract means that the buyer is free to impart damages on a seller with no fear of being bound by the clauses in an agreement. I share this with you because so often, a layperson as myself is confronted with law issues and contracts that

cannot be enforced in a court of law.

A. Your story is very confounding. However, the magistrate must follow (yet can interpret) the written laws and the established case law surrounding this matter. My guess is that case law in Pennsylvania might allow for a buyer to back out of a closing for a variety of reasons that are more inclusive than what is in your specific, written contract. If you are really upset about this, you may want to discuss this problem with an attorney to see if there might be a way to appeal this judgment that has no "reason given."

Tom Hamilton, Ph.D., is associate professor at the Shenoy Center for Real Estate Education at the University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis. E-mail questions to: thamilton@stthomas.edu. Please include name, city and state.

Buzz

FROM PAGE B14

When the temperatures are over 75 degrees, then water the containerized kumquats every day. Irregular watering will cause the fruit to drop off when it gets to be about the size of a pea. Citrus requires six hours or more of direct sun light from April through October.

Q. I purchased a semi-dwarf apricot tree last year. When should I expect it to produce fruit? Will I need a second tree for pollination?

A. You should expect your semi-dwarf apricot to bloom and produce fruit this year. It will not require a second tree for this to occur. If you look on the dark colored wood you should see clusters of buds; these are the fruiting spurs plus vegetative buds.

The single buds on the wood are vegetative. Your primary concern is establishing the tree.

Selecting the primary scaffold branches is your first concern. If you have a lot of fruit to establish the tree is a concern.

You'll find specific instructions on my web site: www.dirtgardener.com. You'll find How To Section and more.

Buzz Bertolero is executive president of Newell's Gardeners and a California Certified Professional Horticulturist. His web site is www.dirtgardener.com. E-mail questions by e-mail: dbertolero@aol.com or to 3801 Ste. D, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

Open Sunday March 13th & 20th 1-4 pm



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A Sunny 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom bungalow style home with original period detailing and built-ins. Beautiful hardwood floors. Level lot with room for expansion. Located in the heart of Albany just one block from Solano Ave. Shops, restaurants and transportation. Close to Marin Elementary and Albany High School.

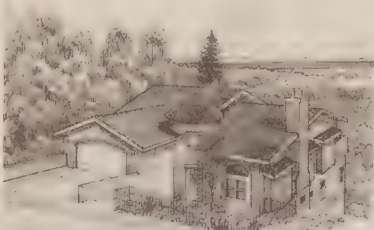
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OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2-4:30PM

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Elegant 1911 Craftsman duplex! Each unit has 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. Gorgeous architectural details. Near Piedmont Avenue's best shops and restaurants! A must see!

4117-4119 Howe Street, Oakland
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kanandan@grubbco.com

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This lovely Tudor is situated on a lot in the Upper Dimond district. In 1935, its arched windows and original fireplace give this home an elegance. The split-level design features two bedrooms, a formal dining room, updated kitchen and hardwood floors. A plus-size half bath, makes for a perfect office. French doors open to a private deck and landscaped yard.



3858 Fruitvale Avenue, Oakland
Offered at \$559,000

Christian Downer
510.338.1340

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www.pacunion.com

When it comes to picking a mortgage, there are plenty of options out there

BY GLORIA IRWIN
NIGHT RIDER NEWSPAPERS

When real estate appraiser and Ott refinanced his home this week, he opted for an adjustable interest-only 30-year mortgage. The Wadsworth, Ohio, resident, got a mortgage product that only existed a few years ago.

In Union, Ohio, elementary teacher Slinger recently signed a paperwork to buy a home in a loan, which allowed her to pay PMI, or private mortgage insurance, even though she had the traditional 20 percent down payment.

Just as in Ott's case, the mortgage product Slinger got is relatively new.

A generation ago, the 20-year mortgage was the only game in town. Now there are dozens of ways to borrow, and homeowners are at an all-time high.

For borrowers, though, it is no simple matter of comparing interest rates.

It is a complicated smorgasbord. "I don't know all these programs now does the public understand these programs?" asked Mary Schoenfeld, vice president of Newview Mortgage Co. in Montevideo, Ohio.

National City Mortgage Co., president and state manager Linamen estimates there are products available. "A lot of the products that we have were developed during the refinancing boom" was a "craze unlike any we've seen through," Linamen said. "The refinancing boom finally ended last year, but some of the new techniques remain."

Everybody has a little bit different situation," Linamen said, and the product isn't right for every-

consumers' credit history, how they plan to stay in the home, and income and other financials are all factors to consider selecting a mortgage. Credit is still the most important factor in determining eligibility for a mortgage and the best interest

Most people are eligible for refinancing," said Pat McClester at Grand Home Mortgage in Akron. "You may choose to wait ... and later off if they take the time to clean up their credit history."

Borrowers "need to find someone that they trust and can talk to," said Cindi Riley, home mortgage consultant for Mortgage One in Akron, Ohio.

They need to ask a lot of questions and then let that professional

Linamen, who works in the real estate industry, had become familiar with interest-only mortgages through a client. Unlike traditional home loans, the monthly payment covers interest for a set period of time, usually 10 years.

After that, payments jump dramatically and the loan is paid off by paying the principal each month for 20 years.

Borrowers can refinance the mortgage after the interest-only period. Being self-employed with income that fluctuates, Ott reached the lower monthly payments and help him in the wintertime when business is slow.

At the end of the time, he intends to make extra payments toward principal to reduce the amount he owes.

"I always keep in mind that my goal is to pay that principal down," he said. "The idea is to pay this off eventually."

Interest-only mortgages, once largely the domain of the wealthy, are "the most popular product on the market today," Linamen said. Borrowers get lower monthly payments and can get a higher-priced home than they otherwise could afford.

Interest-only loans may not be the best for a first-time buyer, though. "Who is in his third home, said he was comfortable with the product and understands its advantages and drawbacks. "Not all programs are for everyone, but for someone in my position," the interest-only makes sense, Ott said.

The 45-year-old Slinger, who had money for a down payment, the mortgage that made the most sense was what is called a split or piggyback loan.

The first mortgage covers 80 percent of the cost of the home, and the second covers 20 percent.

Even though she is paying a lower interest rate on the second mortgage, the combined monthly payments on both loans is only \$50 more than what she was paying to rent.

"I didn't even know I could buy a house with no down payment," she said. "I'm excited."

Piggyback loans are highly popular because they allow borrowers to avoid PMI payments - which can range from \$50 to \$250 a month.

When talking to customers about strategies, this is one of the

things we bring up 100 percent of the time," Linamen said.

Just as there are new loan products, so too are there new consumer attitudes.

A paid-for home is less of a goal. "People of today are not going to have their homes paid off" when they retire, Riley said. "We definitely see people in their 40s and 50s still financing for long periods of time."

Home refinancing by senior citizens also is becoming more common, McClester said.

Regardless of the situation,

Schoenfeld urges consumers to take the time to learn about the different mortgage products.

"Educate yourself," she advised. "Go out and interview our lenders, see who you're comfortable with,

see who's been around and has a good reputation."

And one piece of old advice still holds true. "If it sounds too good to be true," Schoenfeld said, "it is too good to be true."



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**494 Boulevard Way, Oakland
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MONDAY, 5 pm

Copy & Artwork:
TUESDAY, 12 Noon

Open Home Guide:
WEDNESDAY, 12 Noon

Lovely Rockridge Home / Income Potential



Open Sunday!

This spacious home is located on a beautiful tree-lined street just one block from College Avenue. The property is currently used as a 5BD/3BA single family residence. It is, however, a legal duplex with kitchens on each level and separate entrances. Lots of recent work including new roof, marble floors, Mediterranean blinds on all lower level windows and doors, upgraded plumbing/wiring and lots more!

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ALBANY**

**Open Sunday
March 13
2-4pm**

Offered at \$559,000

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Helen Walker & Kathryn Stein
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Windermere Real Estate



Fabulous Investment Property and Future Home
This adorable 2 bedroom, 1 bath craftsman bungalow is in upper Glenview district in the foothills of Oakland. It currently is being used as a day-care center and the buyer would have a very good tenant for the next 5 years. 4426 Park Blvd., Oakland. For more information call Peter Fletcher at 510-521-1177.



PETER FLETCHER
510-521-1177
pmbroker@windermere.com

Windermere
Properties of the East Bay

4309 Hacienda Drive, Suite 150 • Pleasanton CA 94588 • (925) 469-5000

Sales

FROM PAGE B5

- 655 12th St 101 - \$468,000
- 655 12th St 310 - \$340,000
- 1082 24th St - \$540,000
- 2307 25th Av - \$400,000
- 469 36th St - \$450,000
- 1930 55th Av - \$530,000
- 891 57th St - \$395,000
- 1169 60th Av - \$340,000
- 1466 66th Av - \$325,000
- 1871 66th Av - \$301,000
- 1088 71st Av - \$513,000
- 1216 73rd Av - \$640,000
- 1646 7th Av - \$499,000
- 1038 83rd Av - \$300,000
- 2111 8th Av - \$655,000
- 569 Almaraz Dr - \$300,000
- 865 Appar St - \$480,000
- 4180 Balfour Av - \$975,000
- 3061 Birdsall Av - \$525,000
- 3418 Boston Av - \$280,000
- 319 Bowsman Ct - \$452,500
- 3563 Brookdale Av - \$360,000
- 6401 Buena Ventura - \$425,000
- 2471 Burlington St - \$675,000
- 290 Cairo Rd - \$345,000
- 423 Cavour St - \$795,000
- 5320 Cole St - \$230,000
- 3137 Coolidge Av - \$463,500
- 455 Crescent St - \$343,000
- 460 Crescent St - \$300,000
- 3706 Delmont Av - \$100,000
- 3716 Delmont Av - \$100,000
- 3726 Delmont Av - \$100,000
- 491 Douglas Av - \$380,000
- 3115 Filbert St - \$525,000
- 989 Franklin St 302 - \$365,000
- 989 Franklin St 403 - \$284,000
- 3035 Fruitvale Av - \$420,000
- 1015 Grand View - \$2,000,000
- 2436 Havenscourt Bl - \$370,000
- 6718 Heartwood Dr - \$760,000
- 5707 Hermann St - \$615,000
- 2448 Humboldt Av - \$870,000
- 555 Jean St 321 - \$250,000
- 3609 Kingsley St - \$450,000
- 1 Lakeside Dr 514 - \$343,000
- 1 Lakeside Dr 701 - \$302,000
- 1 Lakeside Dr 811 - \$498,000
- 2228 Leimert Bl - \$1,475,000
- 4020 Linwood Av - \$605,000
- 6068 Margarito - \$1,050,000
- 274 Mather St 2 - \$405,000
- 2342 Maywood Av - \$410,000
- 2012 Melvin Rd - \$730,000
- 3489 Midvale Av - \$240,000
- 3001 Millsbrae Av - \$552,000
- 2326 Monticello Av - \$450,000
- 2837 Morcom Av - \$425,000
- 8122 Ney Av - \$326,000
- 9415 Peach St - \$570,000
- 6157 Shattuck Av - \$445,000
- 2405 Siesta Ln - \$250,000
- 6225 Snake Rd - \$760,000
- 3405 Storer Av - \$499,000
- 141 Strathmoor Dr - \$660,000
- 6500 Sunnymere - \$473,000
- 9307 Sunnyside St - \$258,000
- 1463 Tucker St - \$385,000
- 1981 Tunnel Rd - \$745,000
- 646 Tyler St - \$350,000
- 3106 Union St - \$500,000
- 7133 Weld St - \$345,000
- 810 York St - \$1,100,000

PIEDMONT

- 12 Sharon Av - \$1,950,500

RICHMOND

- 617 13th St - \$365,000
- 517 20th St - \$370,000
- 637 22nd St - \$351,000
- 633 40th St - \$350,000
- 324 44th St - \$268,000
- 440 5th St - \$223,500
- 247 8th St - \$405,000
- 2436 Andrade - \$355,000
- 4614 Berk Av - \$465,000
- 6020 Bernhard - \$555,000
- 605 Bradford Dr - \$318,000
- 220 Commodore - \$349,000
- 1100 Farmstead Ct - \$556,000
- 5231 Fleming Av - \$412,000
- 1501 Foxglove Pl - \$532,000
- 1085 Heritage Ct - \$540,000
- 1606 Hoffman Bl - \$460,000
- 3207 Keith Dr - \$525,000
- 1704 Larkspur Pl - \$496,000
- 842 Lassen St - \$420,000
- 122 Marina Wy - \$320,000
- 1201 Melville 102 - \$358,000
- 1205 Melville 202 - \$405,000
- 1510 Nevin Plz - \$276,000
- 1518 Nevin Plz - \$276,000
- 1522 Nevin Plz - \$398,000
- 1526 Nevin Plz - \$276,000
- 1530 Nevin Plz - \$276,000
- 3801 Northridge - \$400,000
- 220 Ohio Av - \$273,000
- 2640 Ohio Av - \$357,000
- 4326 Ohio Av - \$450,000
- 5824 Panama Av - \$586,000
- 2 Park Ln - \$345,000
- 522 Pennsylvania - \$420,000
- 209 Seaciff Wy - \$879,500
- 536 South 23rd St - \$250,000
- 701 South 41st St - \$415,000
- 264 South 47th St - \$472,000
- 224 South 4th St - \$350,000
- 164 South Harbour - \$260,000
- 901 View Dr - \$460,000

SAN LEANDRO

- 1537 140th Av - \$504,000
- 1392 145th Av - \$475,000
- 1503 159th Av - \$420,000
- 446 Alvarado St - \$780,000
- 459 Arroyo Av - \$486,000
- 15384 Beatty St - \$520,000
- 1080 Begier Av - \$715,000
- 198 Dutton Av - \$475,000
- 16565 Hannah Dr - \$368,000
- 15400 Heron Dr - \$617,000
- 481 Lewis Av - \$535,000
- 1926 Manchester - \$526,000
- 997 Martin Bl - \$475,000
- 706 Matoza Ln - \$739,000
- 16249 Maubert Av - \$335,000
- 3675 Monterey Bl - \$560,000
- 460 Olive St - \$450,000
- 1600 Pacific Av - \$450,000
- 398 Parrott St - \$349,000

- 1600 Renaissance - \$607,000
- 16432 Saratoga St - \$400,000
- 2174 Somerset Av - \$500,000
- 1405 Virginia St - \$382,500
- 16013 Wellington - \$385,000
- 15573 Wicks Bl - \$485,000
- 16767 Winding Bl - \$525,000

By the numbers

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$404,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$770,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$610,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$594,667

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$450,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$580,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$515,000

BURLINGAME

TOTAL SALES: 11
LOWEST PRICE: \$495,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,100,000

MEDIAN PRICE: \$680,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$747,455

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$605,000

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST PRICE: \$423,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$655,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$473,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$501,200

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 8
LOWEST PRICE: \$300,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$665,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$321,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$403,125

KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$900,000

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 75
LOWEST PRICE: \$100,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$2,000,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$445,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$497,400

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$1,950,500

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 42
LOWEST PRICE: \$223,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$879,500
MEDIAN PRICE: \$398,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$400,429

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 26
LOWEST PRICE: \$335,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$780,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$486,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$502,442

Nine Unit Victorian on Historic List 2029 CENTRAL AVENUE



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- 2142 Santa Clara, Alameda
4+BD/2BA updated Victorian
- 8019 Ideho St., Oakland
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- 3658 Foothill Blvd., Oakland
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- 1713 Mason St., Alameda
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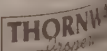
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3. Remove Carpet
4. Paint
5. Plant small secluded yard
6. Walk to everywhere

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510-814-4874
Mark Playsted
1819 Union Street Central 2BD/1BA
510-814-4835
Elaine Budka
1610 Encinal Avenue Central 2BD/1BA
510-814-4860/814-4861
J. Iverson/S. Battaglia
918 Buena Vista Ave 2+BD/1BA
510-523-0746
Mindy Hart
2624 Bayview Dr 2BD/2BA
510-527-2700x36
Terry Pedersen
1 Courageous Court 3BD/2BA
510-531-2274
Wendy Sandoz
3283 Thompson Avenue East End 2BD/1BA
510-814-4713
Russ Grant
1040 Camella Dr. Bay Farm Island 3BD/2BA
510-814-4819
Nancy & Chuck Bianchi
1611 Walnut Street Victorian 2BD/1BA
510-748-1158
Tom Bennett
100 Orr Rd Bay Farm Island 3BD/2.5BA
510-755-4003
John Chang
874 Walnut Street Duplex
510-748-1148
Pacita Dimacali
900 Park Ave Central 2BD/1.5BA
510-522-7173
Bev & George Williams
13 Brehaut Court Harbor Bay Isle 3BD/2.5BA
510-814-4711
Walt & Judy Jacobs
2717 Washington 3+BD/2BA
510-864-2024/769-1845
David G. Rosemary M.
1041 Regent Street Triplex
510-865-3460
Pat Colburn
1065 Gardenia Terrace 3BD/2BA
510-814-4897/814-4887
Nancy Mach/Alexander Mak
43 Hampton Court Harbor Bay Isle 3BD/2BA
510-814-4848
Ringo Liu
2825 Yosemite Drive East End 3BD/1.5BA
510-814-4823
Nancy Brandt
624 Lincoln Ave 3BD/1.5BA
510-205-3575
Andrew Raszkopf
147 Justin Circle Harbor Bay Isle 4BD/3BA
510-814-4880
Maureen Shandobol
960 Santa Clara Ave Triplex Plus
510-748-1175
Anne DeBardeleben
1418 5th Street 3 Units
415-309-1650
Andrea Gordon
976 & 978 Park St. 2 homes/1 lot
510-828-3118
Kathie Ng
1012 Walnut St 4 Units
415-309-1650
Andrea Gordon
330 Sweet Rd Harbor Bay Isle 4BD/3BA
510-814-4710
Walt & Judy Jacobs
739 Cerrito 2+BD/2BA
510-848-1950x230
Helen & Kathryn
804 San Carlos 2BD/1BA
510-524-8508
Bill Shaw
1062 Peralta Ave 2BD
510-527-2700x32
Richard Morrison
1240 Brighton Ave. 4BD/2.5BA
510-339-2169 x6209
Nancy Rothman
2209 Peppertree Way #2 2BD/1BA
510-774-4231
Mark Lederer
1814 Blake St #2 1BD/1BA
510-524-8883x35
Denise Milburn
1825 Vine St #5 1BD/1BA
510-280-2178
Grace Bishop
1721 Berkeley Way #2 2BD/1BA
510-486-1495
Cheryl Cahn
3409 California St 3BD/1BA
510-292-2019
Heather Thomson
2717 Acton St 1BD/1BA
510-339-9290
Vikki Landes

Berkeley
\$475,000 1324 Santa Fe 3BD/2BA
Sun 1-5pm Westbrae 510-848-1950x212
Thornwall Prop. Mary Canavan
\$517,000 1270 Bancroft Way 2BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-5pm 510-882-2255
Prudential Wendy Kashiwa
\$549,000 1326 Queens Road 2BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-0400
The Grubb Co. Anne Feste
\$599,000 1717 Rose Street 2BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-0400
The Grubb Co. Chris Cohn
\$625,000 1615 Harmon Street 3BD/3BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-0400
The Grubb Co. Dana Cohen
\$649,000 1652 Visalia Avenue 2BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-0400
The Grubb Co. Michael Friedman
\$695,000 100 Fairlawn 2BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-848-1950x230
Thornwall Properties Helen & Kathryn
\$695,000 1165 Keeler Avenue 3BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 510-652-2133
The Grubb Co. Helene Barkin
\$695,000 1170 Cragmont Ave Duplex
Open Sun 1-4pm 510-527-8822
Millstein & Associates Gene Millstein
\$725,000 1236 Hopkins Triplex
Open Sun 2-4:30pm 510-280-2106
Red Oak Realty Jeanne Lingsfeldt
\$779,000 1112 Fresno 3BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-635-6218
Red Oak Realty The Longs
\$790,000 1 Claremont Cr 3BD/2BA
Sun 2-4pm Upper Elmwood 510-849-9900
Maison Nouveau Annalisse Demuth
\$849,000 1735 Sonoma Avenue 3BD/1.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-0400
The Grubb Co. Karen Starr
\$859,000 693 Hilldale 3BD/2BA
Sun 2-4:30 510-486-1495
Caldwell Banker Nancy Reichert
\$899,000 809 Shattuck Ave 3BD/2BA
Sun 2-4:30pm Indian Rock 510-868-1524
Prudential Krista Miller
\$919,000 2210 Los Angeles Ave 5+BD/3BA
Sun 2-4:30pm North Berkeley 510-524-1700x26
Berkeley Hills Realty Norah Brower
\$950,000 1073 Cragmont Avenue 3BD/2.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 510-652-2133
The Grubb Co. Bebe McCrae
\$995,000 2936 Linden Avenue 4BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-0400
The Grubb Co. Karen Starr
\$995,000 964 Shattuck Avenue 4BD/3BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 510-652-2133
The Grubb Co. Susie Schervill
\$1,175,000 2877 Shasta Rd. 4BD/3BA
Sat & Sun 2-4:30 510-339-4700
Caldwell Banker Terry Anthony & Les lie Wei
\$1,200,000 12 East Parnassus Ct 4BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-527-8822
Millstein & Associates Gene Millstein
\$1,350,000 1415 Arch 3+BD/2BA
Sun 2-4:30 510-338-1336/1363
Pacific Union GMAC Jack McPhail/Leslie Easterday
\$1,450,000 2826 Webster Street 4BD/3BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 510-652-2133
The Grubb Co. Bebe McCrae
\$1,950,000 4975 Grizzly Peak 4BD/3.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-0400
The Grubb Co. Anthony Riggins
Castro Valley
\$599,000 19686 Bernal St. 3BD/2BA
Sun 1-4 Alameda Realty 510-681-5249
Carol Knight
El Cerrito
\$489,000 7630 Ward Ave 2BD/1BA
Sun 2-4pm 510-559-2937
Marvin Gardens Diana Mendler
\$498,000 1322 Norvell St 3BD/1.5BA
Sun 2-4pm 510-559-2915
Marvin Gardens Todd Hodson
\$579,900 2219 Mono Ave 3BD/1.5BA
Open Sun 1-4pm 510-669-1251
Caldwell Banker Bartels Gary Luksey
\$595,000 6938 Fairview Dr 3BD/1.5BA
Sun 2-4:30pm 510-527-2700x25
Marvin Gardens Sue Nelson & Darrell Hoh
\$595,000 703 Seaview 3BD/2BA
Sun 2-4pm 510-559-2939
Marvin Gardens Mykai Larkins
\$599,000 2611 Mira Vista Dr 3BD/2BA
Sun 1:30-4pm 510-662-8469
Security Pacific geristern.com
\$599,000 6429 Hagen Blvd 3+BD/2BA
Sun 2-5pm 510-834-2010
Prudential Natalie Lynch
\$649,000 2628 Mira Vista Dr 4BD/2BA
Sun 1:30-4pm 510-662-8558
Security Pacific carladellazoppa.com
\$689,000 1414 Richmond 4BD/4BA
Sun 2-4 415-345-2588
Pacific Union GMAC Ivan
\$689,000 8306 Terrace Dr 3BD/3BA
Sun 2-4pm 510-559-2915
Marvin Gardens Todd Hodson
\$1,125,000 1307 Brewster Ct 4BD/3BA
Open Sun 1-4 925-683-3488
Prudential CA Realty Orinda Marty Baum
El Sobrante
\$575,000 4063 Mozart 4bd/3ba
Open Sun 2-4 510-848-1950x230
Thornwall Prop. Helen Walker/Kathryn Stein
Emeryville
\$499,000 4321 Essex St. 3BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 510-332-8852
C21 Heritage Victor Fierro
Kensington
\$599,000 160 Purdue Avenue 2BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 510-652-2133
The Grubb Co. Ruth Frassetto
\$799,000 414 Beloit Ave 4BD/1.5BA
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-280-2126
Red Oak Realty Leif Jensen

Kensington
\$868,000 51 Highland Ave. 3bd/2ba
Open Sun 1-4 510-845-0211
Prudential Claremont Nancy Taussig
Lafayette
\$2,995,000 1328 Martino Rd. 5BD/4.5BA
Sun 1-4 510-339-2169 x6209
Pacific Union GMAC Nancy Rothman
Oakland
\$145,000 730 29th St #113 Commercial
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-280-2105
Red Oak Realty Sara Garabedian
\$190,000 360 Vernon Street #216 -BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 Adams Point 531-7000 x238
Wells & Bennett Realtors Patsy Buhler
\$199,000 730 29th St #115 Commercial
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-280-2105
Red Oak Realty Sara Garabedian
\$235,000 455 Crescent Street #212 Studio
Sat & Sun 1-4 510-909-6871
Prudential CA Realty Dislay R. McFall
\$275,000 0 Shepard Canyon Rd. Lots & Land
Open All Day 510-339-8900 x262
C21 Heritage Sheila Brox Crawford
\$279,000 1 W Embarcadero #157 1BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4:30pm Jack London 510-428-0900
Prudential Nancy Hinkley
\$299,000 730 29th St 1BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4:30pm W.Oakland 510-428-0900
Prudential Aleso
\$318,000 3413 Elmwood 1BD/1BA
Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty 510-814-4885
Jeff Goodman
\$329,000 155 Pearl St #201 2BD/1BA
Sun 2-4:30pm Adams Point 925-784-0421
Montclair Better Homes Bettie Sue Schack
\$329,000 3828 Brookdale Ave 2BD/1BA
Sun 2-4:30 510-339-4700
Caldwell Banker Antonia "Noni" Robinson
\$329,000 730 29th St #208 1BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-280-2105
Red Oak Realty Sara Garabedian
\$358,000 2932 76th Ave 2BD/1BA
Sat & Sun 12-5 510-527-6954
Prudential CA Realty Robert Pittman
\$369,000 730 29th St #207 1BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-280-2105
Red Oak Realty Sara Garabedian
\$379,000 4268 Suter Street 2BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 Dimond 510-339-0400
The Grubb Co. Hope Broderick
\$399,000 2550 38th Ave 2BD/1BA
Sun 2-4 510-814-4892
Harbor Bay Realty Eunice Edwards
\$399,000 3209 60th Ave 2+BD/2BA
Sun 2-4:30pm 510-339-9290
Prudential Andreas Furtner
\$399,000 3748 Enos 3+BD/1.5BA
Sun 2-5 510-338-1334
Pacific Union GMAC Vicki Woodhead
\$399,000 375 Jayne Ave 2BD/1.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30pm 510-280-2140
Red Oak Realty Barbara Hendrickson
\$419,000 5243 Cole St 2BD/1BA
Sun 2-4pm Maxwell Park 510-849-9900
Maison Nouveau Annalisse Demuth
\$449,900 565 Bellevue, Unit 2001 1BD/2BA
Sun 2-4:30pm Lake Merritt 510-899-6305
Montclair Better Homes Rosemary Greene
\$469,000 4050 Everett 2BD/1+BA
Sun 2-4:30 Glenview 510-338-1314
Pacific Union GMAC Sandi Klemmer
\$475,000 3044 Suter St 2+BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4:30pm Dimond 510-428-0900
Prudential Nancy Hinkley
\$489,000 3726 Rhoda Ave. 2+BD/2BA
Sun 2-4:30 Laurel 510-339-4700
Caldwell Banker Claudia Bowman & Preston Grant
\$499,000 3649 Shone Ave 2+BD/2BA
Sun 2-4:30pm Millmont 510-339-9290
Prudential MaryDresser.com
\$505,000 626 Jean St 2BD/2BA
Sun 2-4:30pm 510-869-5192
Prudential Jackie Care
\$519,000 220 Caldecott Ln #307 2BD/2BA
Sun 12-3pm 510-524-9888x35
Berkeley Hills Realty Denise Milburn
\$525,000 3650 Maple 3BD/2BA
Sun 2-4:30 Laurel 510-338-1331
Pacific Union GMAC David Ichikawa
\$525,000 611 57th Street 2+BD/1BA
Sun 2-4:30 No. Oakland 10-338-1381
Pacific Union GMAC Tom Nemeth
\$529,000 4900 Bancroft Ave Commercial
Sun 2-4:30pm Oakland 510-233-6333
Montclair Better Homes Ken Nwokedi
\$529,000 760 55th St 2BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4pm 510-280-2162
Red Oak Realty Saraya Motley
\$539,000 160 Moss Way 2BD/1BA
Sun 2-5pm Piedmont Ave 510-273-9923
RE/MAX EBH Rick & Ernie
\$539,000 4420 Hyacinth 2BD/1BA
Sun 2-5 510-338-1352
Pacific Union GMAC Diane E. McCan
\$540,000 3333 Georgia St 4BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-8900
C21 Heritage Mel Copland
\$545,000 1801 27th Ave 4plex
Sun 2-4:30pm Fruitvale 510-899-6363
Montclair Better Homes Nicole Edgar
\$549,000 3729 Wisconsin St 3BD/1.5+BA
Sun 2-4:30pm Upper Laurel 510-482-9000
Montclair Better Homes Patricia Bennett.com
\$559,000 3858 Fruitvale Ave. 2+BD/1.5BA
Sat & Sun 2-5 Upper Dimond 510-338-1340
Pacific Union GMAC Christian Downer
\$575,000 762 Santa Ray Ave 3BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 Crocker Highlands 531-7000 x246
Wells & Bennett Realtors Stan Hammond
\$579,000 1041 55th St Duplex
Sun 2-4:30pm Emeryville Border 510-848-1950x24
Thornwall Properties Martha Becker
\$579,000 3944 Fruitvale Avenue 3BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 Dimond 510-339-0400
The Grubb Co. Hope Broderick
\$579,000 6323 Girvin Dr 3+BD/3BA
Open Sun 2-4:30pm Montclair 510-428-0900
Prudential Nancy Hinkley

Oakland
\$588,000 1917 12th Ave 5BD/3BA
Open Sun 2-5pm 510-428-0900
Prudential Scott Thompson
\$589,000 400 60th St. 2BD/1BA
Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge 510-338-1379
Pacific Union GMAC Steven Blasatti
\$589,000 465 38th St 4BD/2BA
Sun 1-4pm 510-834-2010
Prudential Muriel Watkins-Dixon
\$589,500 311 Oak St. #333 2BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 Jack London Sq. 510-451-7317 x18
Valva Realty Co. Mike Bresso
\$599,000 25 Ironwood 3bd/2.5ba
Open Sun 2-4 Sequoyah Heights 510-845-0211
Prudential Claremont Nancy Platford
\$599,000 3941 Elston Ave 2BD/2+BA
Sun 2-4:30pm Glenview 510-339-5775
Montclair Better Homes Michael Thompson
\$599,000 43 Mission Hills 3BD/2+BA
Sun 2-4:30pm Sequoyah Heights 510-845-0211
Montclair Better Homes Rosemary Greene
\$599,500 311 Oak St #330 2BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 Jack London Sq. 510-451-7317 x18
Valva Realty Co. Mike Bresso
\$600,000 967 Grosvenor Place 3BD/2BA
Sun 2-4:30 Crocker Highlands 510-339-4700
Caldwell Banker Terry Kulka
\$600,000 967 Grosvenor Place 3BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-5 510-339-4789
Caldwell Banker Terry Kulka
\$619,000 4501 Elinora Ave 3BD/1.5BA
Sun 2-4:30pm Redwood Heights 510-482-9000
Montclair Better Homes PatriciaBennett.com
\$628,000 831 58th St -BD/4BA
Sun 2-4:30 2 Houses 510-339-4700
Caldwell Banker Donna Conroy
\$639,000 5707 Ayala Ave 3BD/1.5BA
Sun 2-4pm Rockridge 510-849-9900
Maison Nouveau Victoria Finn
\$640,000 1484/1486 Excelsior 2+BD/1BA
Sun 2-4:30pm Marvin Gardens 510-527-0211
Celia Concus
\$645,000 4117-119 Howe St. 4BD/2BA
Sun 2-4:30 Piedmont Avenue 510-338-1316
Pacific Union GMAC Joan Dark
\$649,500 1015 Martin Luther King Jr. Way 4BD/2BA
Sun 1-5 510-486-1495
Caldwell Banker Gene Della Maggiora
\$650,000 2411 Humboldt Ave 5BD/3BA
Sun 2-4:30pm Dimond (lower) 510-339-4565
Montclair Better Homes Martha Shin
\$654,000 5966 Balboa Drive 3BD/2BA
Sun 2-4:30 Monclair 925-253-6268
Pacific Union GMAC Paul Di Leo
\$669,000 2646 & 2648 Ivy Drive 1BD
Open Sun 2-4 510-866-1212
Property Counselors Link Corkery, Inc.
\$669,000 7009 Broadway Terrace 3BD/2.5BA
Sun 1-4pm Montclair 510-339-8900
Security Pacific Helen Nicholas
\$675,000 11 Conrad Ct. 2+BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 Monclair 510-338-1364
Pacific Union GMAC Cindy Houts
\$679,000 3818-3820 Shafter Ave Duplex
Sun 2-4:30pm Temescal 510-339-9290
Prudential Gene Boomer
\$689,000 353 Warwick 3+BD/1BA
Open Sun 2-4:30pm 510-280-2177
Red Oak Realty Merritt Levine
\$699,000 100 Buckeye Ave 3BD/3.5BA
Sun 2-4:30pm Upper Rockridge 510-338-1303
Pacific Union GMAC Wendy Gardner-Ferrari
\$719,000 4509 Elinora 4BD/3BA
Sun 2-5 Redwood Heights 510-338-1309
Pacific Union GMAC Lee Jacobson
\$724,999 4616 Redwood Rd. 3BD/2.5BA
Sun 2-4:30 Oakland Hills 510-338-1375
Nancy Hoover
\$739,000 1234 Trestle Glen Rd 3BD/1.5BA
Sun 2-5pm Crocker Highlands 510-473-0259
Prudential Sandy Wong
\$749,000 10 Larry Lane 2BD/2BA
Sun 2-4:30 Piedmont Pines 510-339-4700
Caldwell Banker Dian Hymer & Joan Duffield
\$749,000 454 Hiller Drive 3BD/2.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 Hiller Highlands 510-339-0400
The Grubb Co. Susanne Paul
\$749,000 6918 Thornhill 3BD/3BA
Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 510-338-1355
Pacific Union GMAC Donna Costella
\$779,000 1929 Oakview Drive 4BD/3BA
Sun 2-4:30 Oakmore 510-339-4700
Caldwell Banker Julie Joyce
\$779,000 5851 Chabot Ct 3BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30pm Rockridge 510-428-0900
Prudential Judith Glass/Sheila Sabine
\$789,000 28 Spy Glass Hill 2BD/2BA
Sun 2-4:30pm Hiller Highlands 510-384-3557
Montclair Better Homes Jennie Lippincott
\$799,000 3033 Harrison 510-451-0211
Open Sun 1-4 Lake Merritt Jeanette Vento
\$799,000 5601 Snake Rd. 3+BD/3BA
Sun 2-4:30 Monclair 510-339-4700
Caldwell Banker Judy Ackerman
\$835,000 6008 Auburn Ave 3+BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30pm 510-280-2138
Red Oak Realty Billy Karp
\$869,000 7000 Ridgewood Drive 4BD/3BA
Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 925-890-4115
Pacific Union GMAC Carolyn Way
\$899,000 6045 Contra Costa Road 3+BD/3BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 Upper Rockridge 510-652-2133
The Grubb Co. Carolyn Jones
\$925,000 6026 Ridgemont Dr. 4BD/3BA
Sun 2-4:30 Ridgemont 510-338-1310
Pacific Union GMAC Robyn Mohr
\$945,000 1021 Hubert Rd. 4+BD/3BA
Sun 2-5 Crocker Highlands 510-338-1385/1302
Pacific Union GMAC M. Mitchell/N. Moore
\$949,000 4309 Terrabella 4BD/3BA
Sat & Sun 2-4:30 510-338-1368/1354
Pacific Union GMAC A. O'Neill/J. Flanagan
\$989,000 1315 Mountain Blvd 4BD/4BA
Open Sat. & Sun. 1:30-4:00 888-805-1001
For Sale By Owner Jay McDaniel
\$995,000 1162 Trestle Glen Road 3+BD/2.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 Crocker Highlands 510-339-0400
The Grubb Co. Mary Merrick

Oakland
\$1,050,000 494 Boulevard Way 4BD/2BA
Sun 2-5 Grand & Lakeshore 510-338-1319/1382
Pacific Union GMAC A. Nichols/K. Tollas
\$1,100,000 1767 Indian Way 4+BD/4.5BA
Sun 2-4:30pm Montclair 510-339-4550
Montclair Better Homes Nahid Nassiri
\$1,149,000 5329 Broadway 4+BD/2+BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge 547-5970
Lawton Associates Ron Kriss
\$1,175,000 951 Sunnyside Road 4BD/2.5BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 Crocker Highlands 510-339-0400
The Grubb Co. Judith Cain
\$1,225,000 1100 Norwood Ave Duplex
Sun 1-4:30pm Glenview 510-834-2010
Prudential Dolores & Robert
\$1,249,000 6222 Bullard 3+BD/3BA
Sun 1-5 Piedmont side of Montclair 510-339-4700
Caldwell Banker Donna Conroy
\$1,290,000 7315 Snake 4+BD/3BA
Sun 2-4:30pm Montclair 510-339-4565
Montclair Better Homes Martha Shin
\$1,375,000 1859 Northwood Court 4BD/3BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 531-7000 x251
Wells & Bennett Realtors Mary Neuberger
\$1,400,000 3900 Cerrito Avenue 6 Units
Open Sun 2-4:30 Piedmont 531-7000 x242
Wells & Bennett Realtors Kelly or Elissa
\$1,875,000 6550 Gwin Rd. 5BD/3.5BA
Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 510-338-1366
Pacific Union GMAC Joanne Hirsch
Piedmont
\$987,000 661 Blair Ave 3BD/3BA
Sun 1-4pm 510-559-2938
Marvin Gardens Doris Alexander
\$1,195,000 24 York Dr 3BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4:30pm 510-428-0900
Prudential Claire Cunningham
\$1,295,000 114 Indian Rd. 5BD/3BA
Sun 2-4:30 510-338-1312
Pacific Union GMAC Martha Holstlaw
\$1,695,000 65 Wyngaard Ave. 4BD/3.5BA
Sun 2-4:30 510-339-4700
Caldwell Banker Ellen Lancaster
\$2,195,000 190 Sandringham Road 4BD/4+BA
Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-0400
The Grubb Co. Angela Wei
Pinole
\$495,000 1278 Hazel 3BD/2BA
Sun 2-4 510-486-1495
Caldwell Banker Michelle Holm
\$629,000 2840 Poulos Ct. 3BD/2.5BA
Sun 1:30-4:30 510-486-1495
Caldwell Banker Greg Lustig
Richmond
\$398,988 5011 Esmond 2BD/1BA
Sun 1-4pm 510-517-3326
Security Pacific cynthiaburke.com
\$399,000 3724 Garvin 3BD/2BA
N & E 510-428-0900
Prudential Vickie & Julie
\$399,000 5436 Modoc Ave 2BD/12BA
Homes-Link Real Estate 510-748-5300
Robert Neumann
\$475,000 901 34th St. 3BD/2.5BA
Sun 2-4pm 510-559-2926
Marvin Gardens Te Everson
\$479,000 5811 Columbia Ave 2BD/1BA
Sun 2-4pm 510-559-2911
Marvin Gardens Joan Underwood
\$512,000 227 S. 47th St. 4BD/2BA
Sun 2-4 510-486-1495
Caldwell Banker Gene Della Maggiora
\$549,000 1911 San Mateo 4BD/2BA
Sun 1-5pm Annex 510-407-5799
Keller Williams Realty Claudia Brown
San Leandro
\$419,888 1573 151st Ave 2BD/1BA
Sun 2-4 San Leandro 510-828-3118
Kane & Associates Patrick Ng
\$539,000 13882 Velarde Dr. 3BD/2BA
Sun 2-4:30 510-821-4040
Alameda Realty Carol Knight
\$669,000 546 Fortuna Ave 4BD
Sun 2-4 510-508-7959
Alameda Realty Carol Burnett
San Lorenzo
\$489,000 16181 Via Primo 3BD/1BA
Sat & Sun 1-4:30 510-748-1148/748-1807
Gallagher and Lindsey Pacita Dimacali/Ann Bracci
Property Out of Area
\$545,000 224 Kavanagh Way 4BD/2BA
Sun 2-4 Pacifica 510-906-2051
Gallagher & Lindsey Rolando & Coqui Basora
What are you looking for?
Classifieds every Day!

ALAMEDA



2031 OTIS DR. #F \$425,000
South Shore Open Sat & Sun 2-4
 South Shore Lagoon condo with 2 bedrooms, 1 bath on the Lagoon. This unit has been recently renovated with new kitchen counters, appliances and flooring. Owner got carried away and extended the updating to the bath, closet organizer & new light fixtures throughout. One of few gated complexes in town. Short walk to beach and South Shore shopping that is undergoing its own facelift and revitalization.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
Stan Lockhart 510-748-1805



874 WALNUT ST. \$675,000
Duplex Open Sat & Sun 2-4
 Well located duplex! Walk to Park Street & South Shore shopping. Two light & bright 2 bedroom units near end of cul-de-sac. Front unit has hardwood floors, high ceilings, interior laundry & attached garage. Rear unit has newer carpet, 2 bathrooms, garage & laundry room. Separate back yards for each unit. With large basement area, this is a good candidate for reconversion to a single family home.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
Pacita Dimacali 510-748-1148
Dave Park 510-748-1198
Ann Bracci 510-748-1807



730 SANTA CLARA AVE. \$870,000
Central Alameda Open Sunday 2-4
 Triplex Plus! Located in a mid-Alameda residential neighborhood. Unit #1 has 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, Unit #2 has 2 bedrooms, 1 bath & Unit #3 has 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Spacious kitchens. Easy access to public transportation, schools & shopping. Property is situated on an extra large corner lot. Part of the lot has been separately fenced and may be rented for additional revenues.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
Anne DeBardleben 510-748-1175



2146 CLINTON AVE. \$695,000
Central Alameda By Appointment Only
 Three units in prime residential location. Each unit has 1 bedroom, 1 bath plus an extra room. There are 3 off-street parking spaces. Large full basement space for each unit. Great potential for owner plus income.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
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REALTORS

The Benefits of Buying -vs- Renting

People often want to know why I believe so strongly in buying real estate versus renting. There are plenty of solid financial arguments for buying real estate. When you rent you are basically paying large sums of money to someone else, when you own, you are buying something of value for yourself and building equity at the same time. There's the tax break, deducting your property taxes and mortgage interest, which in the early years of home ownership (when most of your mortgage is interest) is significant. And, when it comes time to sell your home, you'll be allowed tax-free profits of up to \$500K (if homeowners are married and filing jointly). How many investments can you think of with that much tax-free profit?

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you the rent is increasing, or telling you that you can't paint the kitchen yellow. Owning a home gives you the control to create your own personal space. Want to redo the kitchen? Landscape the backyard? Add on a new room? You can make it anything you want. You can both add value and enjoy the special home you've created.

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And lastly, home ownership allows many people a sense of freedom. The stability of owning allows people to plan down the road, whether that means starting a family or starting a business. And once equity has been built up, it can allow some, the financial freedom to make a career change, buy a second home, or plan for an early retirement.

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ALAMEDA



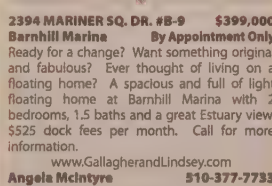
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Neighborhood Focus: Central Alameda

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OAKLAND



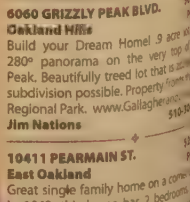
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SPORTS

• Friday, March 11, 2005 •

Section C

Top-seeded Yellow Jackets stunned in NorCal opener

By Robert Jordan
STAFF WRITER

For the second straight night, Castlemont High School's Joshua Acosta hit a game-winning shot, helping unseeded Castlemont past No. 1 seed Yellow Jackets 68-61 in the first round of the California Interscholastic Federation Northern regional Division I boys basketball playoffs Tuesday.

Acosta hit a running floater in the game with 1.5 seconds to play to host Berkeley (26-4) and helped the Knights (22-9) into a final game against No. 6 Woodside. Acosta also hit the game-winning shot in a 64-62 victory over Galileo in a play-in game Monday.

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

"We just didn't come out prepared," said Berkeley's Dior Lowhorn, who had a team-high 22 points. "We had the lead but let it go."

Berkeley jumped to a 18-8 lead after the first 6:25 of the game and held a 41-33 lead with 5:15 left in the third quarter.

But each time the Yellow Jackets pulled ahead, Castlemont crawled its way back into the game.

"I saw them last night and it wasn't their best game," Berkeley coach Mike Gragnani said of

Castlemont. "But I knew if they put together a good game, they are a tough team."

The Yellow Jackets held a 63-58 lead with 2:07 left, but two turnovers and two missed shots by Berkeley helped Castlemont finish the game on a 10-4 run.

Castlemont took a 66-65 lead on an Acosta layup with 20 seconds left, but Robert Mitchell fouled on the Yellow Jackets' next possession and hit two free throws to give Berkeley a one-point advantage.

Berkeley had one last shot after Acosta's heroics. Mitchell's inbounds pass intended for Texas Tech-bound Lowhorn rolled through his legs and into the

hands of teammate Kevin Tyler, but his shot was after the buzzer.

Berkeley 71, Newark Memorial 65, OT: His transcripts, report card and class schedule all read freshman, but when it comes to the hardwood Duane Bagsby is anything but.

Bagsby scored 12 of his 18 points after halftime to help No. 2 seed Berkeley down top seed Newark Memorial (27-3) in overtime in the North Coast Section Division I championship game on Saturday at Cal State East Bay in Hayward.

"He is no longer a freshman," Gragnani said. "He is a sophomore now. Just a gutsy player who is not afraid to make a play."

For the second straight night, Bagsby was making plays to help the Yellow Jackets (26-3) win their first NCS boys basketball title since 1978.

"We have exorcised a couple of ghosts," Gragnani said. "When we started the season they had a goal to win a state title, but we knew we had to win league and then section. Tonight we did that."

Early on, it didn't look good for Berkeley, which trailed by as many as 12 points in the first half.

After being outscored 38-28 in the first half, the Yellow Jackets responded in the second behind Bagsby and Mitchell.

The duo combined for 23 of

Berkeley's 33 second-half points, and seven of its 10 points in the extra period.

Berkeley 59, De La Salle 50: De La Salle held Lowhorn to six second-half points but may have overlooked Bagsby.

Bagsby scored 12 of his game-high 18 points after halftime to help the host Yellow Jackets beat No. 3 De La Salle (23-5) in the semifinals of the NCS Division I playoffs on Friday.

"Every time we play a good team people doubt us," said Bagsby, who connected on three 3-pointers in the third quarter. "Tonight I took it as an opportunity for myself to carry this team."

ACCAL NOTEBOOK

Yellow Jackets respond when Mitchell speaks up

By Robert Jordan
STAFF WRITER

BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL boys basketball player Robert Mitchell learned how to express himself.

But the 6-foot-1 senior didn't accomplish the feat by attending counseling. Instead, Mitchell's therapy took place on the hardwood under the guidance of coach Mike Gragnani. That tutelage helped Mitchell become the vocal leader of the Yellow Jackets.

"My sophomore year, I was that vocal," said Mitchell. "My coach molded me into that junior year because he knew it would be important when I was a senior."

Mitchell's transformation was full circle in Saturday's North Coast Section Division I championship game against top-seeded Newark Memorial.

With Berkeley trailing in the third quarter, coach Gragnani yelled out "40," the code for full-court man defense. Mitchell responded with, "No we need to run a 2-3 zone."

His observation paid off. Behind the zone defense and the effort of Mitchell and freshman Kevin Bagsby, the Yellow Jackets rallied from a 12-point

See ACCAL, Page 2

ACCAL NOTEBOOK

There's no slowing down in Piedmont

By Dave Carpenter
STAFF WRITER

HOH, THE Piedmont High School girls basketball team is on a winning again.

After storming through the Shore Athletic League and North Coast Section, the Highlanders are cruising through the California Interscholastic Federation Northern California Division IV playoffs.

They started off the region with a resounding 77-39 over Durham in which Courtney Paris tallied 25

Piedmont improved to an unbeaten 30-2 on the season with the win. In fact, the only Highlanders losses have come against Christ the King-Newman and Garfield-Seattle.

Christ the King (25-0) is No. 1 in the country by USA Today and Garfield (22-1) is sixth in the Western Region.

Piedmont, No. 1 in the West, won its third section title in a last Saturday by blowing Moreau Catholic 83-51 at the Haas Pavilion.

Paris led the Highlanders with 36 points. Twin sister Ashland 22. The pair also combined for 34 rebounds.

"We're going to celebrate a victory," Piedmont coach Tom Gardere said. "The girls loved it, and it was a team effort all the way around."

The scary thing about the Highlanders is that they are not alone. Twin Sister Act. Piedmont has gotten contributions

See BSAL, Page 2

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL



BERKELEY'S Jazmine Perkins, left, guards Amador Valley's Sara VanderHorst during their NCS semifinal game.

SUSAN TRIPP POLLARD/STAFF

Berkeley's defense shines

By Phil Jensen
STAFF WRITER

The Berkeley High School girls basketball team held Carlmont-Belmont to single-digit scoring in all four quarters of a 66-24 victory Tuesday in the first round of the California Interscholastic Federation Division I Northern regional on Tuesday at Sequoia High School in Redwood City.

Results of Thursday's semifinal game between Berkeley and Oakland Tech were not available at press time.

On Tuesday, the visiting Yellow Jackets (20-10) held a slim 13-9 lead after one quarter but outscored the Scots 26-3 in

the second quarter to totally take control. Berkeley's Jennifer Gross led all scorers with 18 points. Teammate Jazmine Perkins added 10 points. Carlmont ended its season with a 20-10 record.

Deer Valley 71, Berkeley 60: Last year in the North Coast Section Division I championship game, Deer Valley lost to Berkeley by 22 points.

This time around, the outcome was a lot different.

Deer Valley's Necolia Simmons scored 18 of her game-high 28 points in the second half to lead the Wolverines to a win over the visiting Yellow Jackets in the NCS Division I

championship game Saturday.

The win gave Deer Valley's its first NCS championship in girls basketball and ended Berkeley's streak of consecutive titles at nine.

The No. 3 Yellow Jackets jumped out to a 17-8 lead in the second quarter.

Behind the aggressive play of Gross, who finished with 12 points and 10 rebounds, the Yellow Jackets looked to be the quicker team.

But the No. 1-seeded Wolverines (24-3) battled back as Jessica Samiere's layup capped an 11-3 run to end the half with the score 30-29 in favor of Berkeley.

Berkeley 67, Amador Valley 37: Gross scored 12 of her 18 points in the second half to help lead the Yellow Jackets to a win over Amador Valley in the NCS Division I semifinals Friday.

Amador Valley (18-8) led 15-13 after the first quarter, but Berkeley went on a 17-4 run to start the second and never trailed again.

The Yellow Jackets took advantage of six Dons turnovers in the second quarter and scored 21 points in under six minutes.

Staff writers Ricardo Sanchez Jr. and Curtis Pashelka contributed to this roundup.

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

St. Mary's breezes in first round

STAFF REPORT

After a close first quarter, the St. Mary's High School boys basketball team cruised to an easy 50-30 victory over Winters in a first-round California Interscholastic Federation Division IV Northern regional playoff game at Woodland on Tuesday.

Larry Gurganious led the Panthers with 19 points and Jordan Thurston added 15, including three 3-pointers.

St. Mary's (27-4) held Winters to single digits in scoring in each quarter.

The Panthers blew the game open in the second quarter by outscoring the Warriors 18-6 and took a 28-14 lead into intermission. St. Mary's coach Manny Nodar said his Panthers were just quicker than the Warriors (24-4).

"Obviously when you hold a team to 30 points and hold them to single digits in each quarter you're doing your job defensively," he said.

Results of Thursday's semifinal between St. Mary's and Valley Christian-San Jose were not available at press time.

Marin Catholic-Kentfield 57, St. Mary's 52: After three quarters in Saturday night's North Coast Section Division IV final, it would have been easy for St. Mary's to accept the nine-point deficit it faced.

The inevitable conclusion neared in a game in which Marin Catholic had an answer for everything the Panthers tried, both offensively and defensively.

But the Panthers decided to teach the fans at Haas Pavilion a little something about resilience.

After trailing by as many as 13 points in the third quarter, No. 1 seed St. Mary's clawed its way to a one-point lead with 2:25 remaining.

But it was all for naught as the No. 3 seed Wildcats (27-4) proceeded to go on an 7-1 run to close the game.

The game began with each team trying to find a hot shooter. Marin Catholic found its man in senior Kahlil Bell, who finished with 19 points. Bell used a torrid second quarter to lead the Wildcats to a 30-22 halftime lead, scoring eight points in the quarter.

St. Mary's (26-4) found a way to contain Bell in the third quarter as freshman Will Brew took a turn at guarding him. Bell was limited to two points in the quarter, and the Panthers kept their slim hopes alive.

The Panthers stormed back as the fourth quarter began, sparked in large part by the playmaking of Gurganious, who had a game-high 25 points. A putback, an assist to teammate Rolando Oliver, and another putback by Gurganious sent the fans into a frenzy as the Panthers were able to cut the lead to 46-44, ultimately tying the game on a pair of free throws by Marco Rodriguez.

The lead didn't come for another three minutes, though, as the teams traded buckets before Gurganious knocked down a 3-pointer to put the Panthers in the lead, 51-50.

That would be the last field goal for Gurganious and the Panthers as a three-point play by Cameron Gill put the Wildcats back in front by two. After a missed field goal by Gurganious, he was forced to foul, his fifth of the game.

Correspondent Ben Enos contributed to this roundup.

See EL CERRITO, Page 2

El Cerrito advances to CIF regional semifinals

By Phil Jensen
STAFF WRITER

The El Cerrito High School girls basketball team advanced to the California Interscholastic Federation Division III Northern regional semifinals after defeating Marshall-San Francisco 48-34 on Tuesday at Kezar Pavilion.

Results of Thursday's semifinal game against St. Mary's-Stockton were unavailable at press time.

The visiting Gauchos (24-6) took a 16-9 lead in the first quarter and led 32-16 at halftime. Myleka Emerson scored a game-high 13 points. Teammate Shonetta Crain-Williams added 10 points and 13 rebounds.

Miramonte 45, El Cerrito 37: The Matadors played keep-away from the Gauchos as time was winding down. Finally, and fittingly, the ball found its way into the hands of Brittany Boswell.

Boswell's 3-point shot found nothing but net and helped put an exclamation point on the Matadors' win over the Gauchos in the North Coast Section Division III championship game Saturday at St. Mary's College.

Boswell, a senior, scored nine of her game-high 20 points in the fourth quarter as No. 2 seed Miramonte erased a 3-point deficit at the end of the third to claim its first NCS title since 2001.

The Matadors (25-4) closed the game on a 13-2 run and hit 5 of 11 shots in the fourth quarter.

Top-seed El Cerrito (23-6), which was looking for its first NCS title since 1988, held a 33-34 lead near the start of the fourth quarter but was ice cold from the floor for the rest of the period.

See EL CERRITO, Page 2

Albany's Porras ends career with strong effort at state

By Dave Carpenter
STAFF WRITER

BAKERSFIELD — The high school wrestling career of Levi Porras came to an end after the first day of the California Interscholastic Federation state championships at Rabobank Arena on Friday, but he made quite a run.

The 6-foot-3 Albany senior won his first two matches by technical fall and pin before dropping into the consolation bracket after a loss in his third match in the 191-pound division.

However, he rebounded with a win to improve to 3-1 on the day. Porras then ran into Central Section runner-up Nathan Timmerman of Monache-Porterville. Porras fought hard but could not avoid elimination in taking a 9-4 loss.

"It felt great," Porras said. "I was a little disappointed at the end, but I'm happy with how the

season went. It was a big surprise to me."

Porras had been struggling with a sore neck from a headfirst slam into the mat he took in last week's North Coast Section championships, but that wasn't all the aches and pains he was enduring.

"My arms are killing me and my shoulders are tore up," he said.

Porras rolled through his first two matches, similar to how he started off the NCS tournament. There, he pinned his first three opponents to reach the semis. At state, he started off with an 18-2 technical fall over San Francisco Section champ Alex Denny of Gaileo. He then pinned Atascadero's Nate Willard in 5:57. Willard placed fourth in the Southern Section.

Next up for Porras was Sacramento Section champ John

Drake of Elk Grove. Drake, ranked fourth in the state by the California Wrestler Newsletter, made Porras the victim of a pin in 1:37.

Porras recovered with a 4-0 shutout over Palo Verde-Blythe's Jeremy Baxter.

Against Timmerman, Porras was on his back much of the match. However, he scored his first points of the match on a reversal with 1:05 left in the third period to trail 7-2. He also scored on a takedown with 10 seconds remaining, but it was too late to change the outcome.

"He had a great run at it," Albany coach Kermit Bankson said. "He has everything to be proud of."

Porras ended the season with a 47-5 record. He won the Bay Shore Athletic League championship and finished second at the Mission San Jose Invitational and NCS.

Just making it to state, a goal Porras has had since he was in the sixth grade, was good enough for him.

"I think I did all I could," he said.

It certainly was good enough for his coach.

"He got here and won three matches," Bankson said. "He made a great run."

Now, Porras is focused on continuing his wrestling at the collegiate level. He has been contacted by Santa Rosa Junior College. He plans to work out there and perhaps wrestle for the team.

Albany had a young team this season but won the league team title with six champions and sent 11 wrestlers to the NCS.

Porras was the Cougars' lone representative at the state finals. In fact, he was the only BSAL wrestler to go that far.

And that is quite a run.



ALBANY'S Levi Porras, top, heads toward an 18-2 win over Gaileo's Alex Denny at the CIF meet. Porras won three of his matches at state.

ON DECK

Prep boys basketball

■ **California Interscholastic Federation Division IV Northern regional finals**, Saturday TBA — St. Mary's had reached the semifinals at press time.

Prep girls basketball

■ **CIF Northern regional finals**, Saturday TBA — Berkeley (Division I) and El Cerrito (Division IV) both had reached the semifinals in their respective divisions at press time.

Prep baseball

■ **Albany vs. El Cerrito** at Cerrito Vista Park, 3:30 p.m. today — The two rivals face each other in a non-league matchup.

■ **Bay Shore Athletic League opens Wednesday** — Among the matchups are Kennedy at Albany and St. Mary's at Piedmont. Both games are at 3:30 p.m.

Prep softball

■ **Bay Shore Athletic League opens Wednesday** — Among the matchups are Albany at Kennedy and Piedmont at St. Mary's. Both games are at 3:30 p.m.

Prep boys volleyball

■ **Salesian at El Cerrito**, 4 p.m. Tuesday — Two squads who competed in the North Coast Section playoffs last year meet in an AC-CAL/BSAL match.

Stars of the week

■ **Duane Bagsby, Berkeley boys basketball** — Bagsby scored 18 points in both the Yellow Jackets' 59-50 win over De La Salle and Berkeley's 71-65 victory over Newark Memorial in the North Coast Section Division I boys basketball championship game. He also had 10 points in Berkeley's 66-67 loss to Castle-mont in the first round of the CIF Northern regional.

■ **Shantrell Sneed, St. Mary's girls basketball** — Sneed scored a career-high 36 points and grabbed 12 rebounds in the Panthers' 74-73 loss to Moreau Catholic in the NCS Division IV girls semifinals.

■ **Shonetta Crain-Williams, El Cerrito girls basketball** — Crain-Williams had a double-double with 10 points and 13 rebounds as the Gauchos beat Marshall-San Francisco in the first round of the CIF Division III Northern regional. She also had a team-high 13 points in El Cerrito's 45-37 loss to Miramonte in the NCS Division III championship game.

YOUTH RESULTS

SWIMMING

Four members of the Bear Swimming club produced impressive times at the Speedo Champions Series California-Nevada Spring Championship on March 3-6 in Mission Viejo.

The meet, known as the sectionals, is the most prestigious level of USA Swimming below major-circuit national meets such as the Olympic Trials.

Isa Guardalabene, 13, swam her personal best of 1 minute, 58.29 seconds in the women's 200-yard freestyle. Casey Osborn, 17, produced a best-ever time of 1:00.47 in the women's 100 butterfly.

Both girls also joined Katie Grue, 15, and Sarah Reingold, 17, in the 400 and 200 freestyle relays as well as the 400 medley relay. They earned invitations to the sectionals by producing qualifying times at the San Diego Senior Classic on Feb. 18-20. Guardalabene clocked a sectional time of 1:58.45 seconds in the 200 freestyle. Osborn recorded a sectional time of 1:00.49 in the 100 butterfly.

— Information provided by Bear Swimming



ACCAL

FROM PAGE 1

deficit to beat the Cougars 71-65 in overtime and help Berkeley bring home its first NCS boys basketball title since 1978.

"I saw they couldn't score off the zone," said Mitchell, who scored 18 of his 20 points after halftime. "They were scoring off man, but the zone was locking them up."

The zone did stifle Newark Memorial, and in particular Kyle Spain.

After scoring 54 points through three quarters, the Cougars scored only 11 points in the fourth quarter and overtime combined.

Spain, the Cougars' main offensive threat, was also shut down.

The San Diego State-bound senior had 24 points through three quarters, but the zone held Spain scoreless in the fourth quarter and overtime.

"(Mitchel) was a little frustrated because they kept scoring," Gragnani said about Mitchell's statement to play zone. "It doesn't matter what we run, but how we execute."

Still, Mitchell's observation proved correct for Berkeley. **UNsung HEROES:** Dior Lowhorn, Mitchel and Bagsby were scoring stars for the Berkeley boys basketball team against Newark Memorial on Saturday, but the Yellow Jackets' run to the NCS Division I title wasn't just a three-person show.

"We have some unsung heroes on this team," Berkeley coach Mike Gragnani said.

Kevin Tyler had 10 points and six rebounds in both of the Yellow Jackets' first two NCS games, and also had some key defensive rebounds at the end of the Newark Memorial game, finishing with eight. Kellan Patterson is the team's shut-down defender, Gragnani said. Patterson had six rebounds against De La Salle in Berkeley's semifinal victory and five rebounds in the Yellow Jackets' win over Newark Memorial.

Ronald Pugh has solidified Berkeley's bench play this season. He grabbed five rebounds against Newark Memorial.

"He helps us most with a spark off the bench. He's a very versatile player," Gragnani said.

REMINISCE: The last time Pinole Valley boys basketball coach Mark DeLuca felt the way he did after his Spartans were upset 91-89 by Las Lomas in the first round of the NCS Division II playoffs on March 2 was about 30 years.

"Immediately after the game I got the same feeling I got in the early 1970's when A.J. Foyt was the pole setter for Indy 500," said DeLuca, who has seen his fair share of live Indy 500's. "It (losing) reminded me of being there and watching him get bounced out after 30 laps. He was on the pole and he went out in the first 30 laps. I cried."

The reason DeLuca had those feelings was his top-seeded squad led by 13 points with three minutes to play, shot 78 percent from the floor in the second half and still lost.

Las Lomas beat Pinole Valley with a barrage of 3-pointers. The Knights, led by David Stafford, connected on 17-of-21 three pointers, including 10-for-10 in the second half.

The Knights were feeling it from long range so much that their center Chad de Leuze, who hadn't shot a 3-pointer all season, according to DeLuca, took two and made them both.

Then to add to it, Las Lomas won the game on a half-court buzzer beating by Stafford, who hit six 3-pointers in the game.

"If somebody said you will shoot 78 percent from the floor and make 14-of-20 free throws and lose the game, I would have said you are crazy," DeLuca said.

DeLuca was so stunned that after the game he went outside to gather his thoughts and missed the fight that erupted at one end of the gym.

Staff writer Phil Jensen contributed to this notebook.

BSAL

FROM PAGE 1

all season from the younger Morris sisters, Casey and Chazny, as well as from guards Jocelyn Woolsey and Annie Saulsbury.

Casey is just a freshman, and Chazny, who transferred from El Cerrito, is a junior.

In Tuesday's first round Nor Cal win, Casey Morris scored eight points and Chazny Morris added seven. Crangle chipped in with 13 points and Katie Salyer hit two 3-pointers.

If the Highlanders get through the regionals, they will play for their second straight state championship March 19.

GREEN WIN: Albany has not had a boys golf team in recent years, so its 230-233 victory over St. Mary's on Tuesday was quite a way for the

Cougars to start in the BSAL opener at Berkeley's Tilden Park.

Albany's Adam Burkow led all scorers with a 2-under-par 33 on the nine-hole course.

The next lowest score was a 6-over 39 by St. Mary's Robin Saulsbury.

Burkow qualified for the North Coast Section South tournament last year as an individual after winning the BSAL tournament with a 5-under 67 at Lake Chabot Golf Club in Oakland.

MAKING AN IMPACT: Mark Castillo's presence on the Salesian baseball program is already being felt.

In his first season as head coach, Castillo helped guide the Chiefs to an 8-1 non-league win over visiting Encinal on March 2.

Castillo replaced Travis Tar-chione, who stepped down as

Salesian's coach after two seasons at the helm.

Castillo, who has been involved with the program the last 10 years, said he was the first time Salesian had beaten Encinal since he has been with the team.

Jonathan Van Looy came in the fourth inning to go win for the Chiefs.

With the score tied at Salesian erupted for seven in the bottom of the sixth, hitting to beat Encinal, a game that has produced big hits from Dontrille Willis and Jim Rollins.

Jordan Jackson kept the inning with a two-run homer. Dominic Barley and Ryan Ching led the Chiefs to 2-for-3 and 2-for-4, respectively.

Staff writer Robert Jordan contributed to this notebook.

El Cerrito

FROM PAGE 1

A 5-foot jump shot by Crain-Williams cut Miramonte's lead to 38-37 with just over three minutes to play.

But the Gauchos were shut out for the rest of the game and made only one of seven field goals for the quarter.

The teams went back and forth for most of the first half, but El Cerrito went on a 8-0 run to start the second quarter and took a 19-14 lead.

Miramonte responded right away with a 9-2 run of its own and had a 23-21 edge at halftime.

El Cerrito 51, Bishop O'Dowd 44: Thanks to the steady hand of senior Turquoise Wilder and the late-game shooting of Emerson,

the Gauchos won this NCS Division III semifinal game on Friday.

After being tied at halftime, the Gauchos pulled away in the fourth quarter and advancing to Saturday's championship game.

El Cerrito (23-5) struggled to find an offensive rhythm in the first half as Emerson had trouble finding her shot.

Wilder was ready to pick up the slack though as she led the Gauchos attack with 11 points in the half to keep pace with the Dragons.

Bishop O'Dowd (18-10) managed to stay close throughout the game thanks to the inside-out combination of Briana Weiss and Kate Mahoney.

Weiss led the Dragons with 16 points while Mahoney added 7, including two from 3-point range.

In the second half, came alive, scoring 12 of 14 points. The punctuation to the evening came when El Cerrito knifed through two defenses with one minute remaining to convert a tough layup at the Gauchos' basket, crushing the Dragons' bid for a comeback.

Staff writer Curtis Pashley and correspondent Ben Jordan contributed to this notebook.

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FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Showtimes for Friday, March 11

Alameda County

Act 1 and 2
 11:00am, Berkeley 510-777-3456
Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice (PG) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 30
Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill (G)

Albany Twin
 11:00am, Albany 510-777-3456
Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice (PG) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 30
Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill (G)

AMC Bay Street 16
 11:00am, Berkeley 510-457-4262
Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice (PG) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 30
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NOW PLAYING

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. Reviewers are Mary F. Pols, Times; Marta Barber, Robert W. Butler, Chris Hewitt, Steven Rea and Carrie Rice, Knight Ridder; Brad Kava, Glenn Lovell and Bruce Newman, San Jose Mercury News; David Germain, Christy Lemire and Ben Nuckols, Associated Press; Anita Gates, Dave Kehr, Elvis Mitchell and A.O. Scott, New York Times; Jami Bernard and Jack Matthews, New York Daily News; Phoebe Flowers, South Florida Sun-Sentinel; Evan Henderson, Valerie Kulkenski, Fred Shuster, Bob Strauss and Glenn Whipp, Los Angeles Daily News; Carina Chocano, Kevin Crust, Manohla Dargis, Kevin Thomas and Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times; Ed Bark, Nancy Churnin, Gary Dowell, Tom Mastrand, Tom Sime, Chris Vogner and Philip Wuntch, Dallas Morning News; Deborah Hornblow, Hartford Courant; Jay Boyar and Roger Moore, Orlando Sentinel; Joe Balake, Sacramento Bee; Ty Burr, Catherine Foster and Wesley Morris, Boston Globe; Robert Denstein, Rocky Mountain News; Ann Hornaday, Stephen Hunter, Michael O'Sullivan and Desson Thomson, Washington Post.

"ALIENS OF THE DEEP": When director James Cameron proclaimed himself King of the World, who knew he had designs on the rest of the solar system? This IMAX-3D film is a glorious hybrid of undersea documentary and outer-space fantasy. — S. Holden. (G) 48 minutes. A

"ARE WE THERE YET?": A rip-off of "Planes, Trains & Automobiles." Affable Nick (Ice Cube), hoping to score points with beautiful single mother Suzanne (Nia Long), transports her children from Portland to Vancouver. The children (Aleiha Allen and Philip Bolden) are smug little snobs, and they taunt, belittle and abuse poor Nick mercilessly. In contrast, John Candy starts to look like great company for a road trip. The emotional connection between Nick and the kids, when it finally arrives, is forced and false. Not even Helen of Troy would be worth putting up with these brats. — M. Pols. (PG: language and rude humor.) 1 hour, 27 minutes. F

"THE AVIATOR": Martin Scorsese's thoroughly absorbing look at the life of Howard Hughes, millionaire, recluse and infamous eccentric. The story is focused on Hughes' younger, triumphant years, with Leonardo DiCaprio taking a fine job bringing him to life. The film stays safely sympathetic to Hughes, ticks and all, which holds it back from greatness, but it is sumptuous, confident and well-acted, exactly what you want in a holiday movie. And Cate Blanchett's gang-buster performance as Katharine Hepburn is not to be missed. — M. Pols. (PG-13: thematic elements, sexual content, nudity, language and a crash sequence.) 2 hours, 49 minutes. B+

"BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE": Based on Kate DiCamillo's novel, this film is content to let people behave as they do, expressing their emotions sparsely and revealing themselves in small, meaningful doses. The Winn-Dixie of the title is a stray dog that helps Opal (AnnaSophia Robb) make friends in a tiny Florida town after her mother bails on her and her dad (Jeff Daniels) is dumped by Opal's mom. A fuzzy, sneaky bulldozer of a pooch, Winn-Dixie makes every scene he's in feel real. — C. Hewitt. (PG: thematic elements and brief, mild language.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. B+

"BE COOL": Chili Palmer (John Travolta) is tired of movies and wants to check out the music scene in this "Get Shorty" sequel that attempts to satirize the music industry in the same way its predecessor satirized the movie business. This move allows him to hook up, confusingly, with his "Pulp Fiction" co-star Uma Thurman, who plays the head of a small record company. Travolta is pleasing, but the supporting talent, from Vince Vaughn to Cedric the Entertainer, is wasted. — M. Pols. (PG-13: violence, sensuality, language, including sexual references.) 1 hour, 54 minutes. C-

"BEING JULIA": Based on Somerset Maugham's novella "Theater," this movie sets out to prove there's no people like show people. The story is set in London in 1939, where aging stage actress Julia Lambert (Annette Bening) enacts her revenge against everyone who has brought her low: Tom, her loutish lover; Michael, her philandering husband, who is sleeping with an ingenue hungry for a part; and the ingenue who is using both of Julia's men to get to Julia. — B. Newman. (R: some sexuality.) 1 hour, 44 minutes. C+

"BOOGYMAN": Barry Watson plays Tim, the guy who wonders if the things that go bump in the night are in his head or in his closet. When his mom, played by Lucy Lawless, dies, Tim vows to confront the demons of his past by spending one night in the absurdly Gothic house he grew up in. Yeah, it's dumb, and it takes a long time to get to scenes that amount to anything other than cheap scares. But "Boogeyman" is not entirely artless. Tim's nightmares are doozies. — R. Moore. (PG-13: intense sequences of horror, terror/violence, some partial nudity.) 1 hour, 26 minutes. C

"BORN INTO BROTHERS": An Oscar-winning documentary about the children of prostitutes who live in Calcutta's red-light district. Photographer (and co-director) Zana Briski gives a group of the kids point-and-shoot cameras, and from that, their worlds open up to the possibility of hope. The film, which takes a clear-eyed, non-sentimental viewpoint, brings us to a place we'd never see otherwise, gives us a poignant lesson in the difficulties of saving those who seem doomed, and reminds us how the force of beauty can exist in the ugliest of places and circumstances. — M. Pols. (R: some sequences of strong language.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. A-

"BRIDE & PREJUDICE": Attempting to adapt "Pride and Prejudice" — Jane Austen's comedy of manners — director Gurinder Chadha ("Bend It Like Beckham") proves that Austen's material is timeless, but not tireless, turning it into a Bollywood musical in which everybody sings and dances, then falls flat on their faces. Ashwarya Rai plays Lalita, who flouts convention by insisting that she will marry only for love, derailing the professional of local Bakhshi girls to the altar. — B. Newman. (PG-13: some sexual references.) 1 hour, 51 minutes. D+

"THE CHORUS (LES CHORISTES)": A resoundingly nice movie about a teacher (Gerard Jugnot) who brings a little light, in the form of music, into a school for orphans and juvenile delinquents in rural France in 1949. He takes his unruly class and turns it into a chorus of sweet songbirds. It all happens more easily than we might expect, and there is, of course, a young musical genius in their midst (Jean-Baptiste Maurin). But Jugnot is a warm and winning presence, and the movie's sweet sentiment goes down easily. — M. Pols. (PG-13: some language/sexual references, violence.) 1 hour, 36 minutes. B

"CON- STANTINE": Keanu Reeves plays a chain-smoking, brooding exorcist with a unique ability to see demons that walk the Earth. That burden plagues him, and it's not great for us either. But this adaptation of the comic book "Hellblazer" is frequently visually arresting and has two very fun campy cameos — by Tilda Swinton and Peter Stormare — as the angel Gabriel and Satan himself, respectively. — M. Pols. (R: demonic images, violence.) 2 hours, 1 minute. C+

"DEAR FRANKIE": While this fragile

OPENING TODAY

"DOWNFALL" (R)
 Bruce Gans stars as Hitler in this dramatic telling of the Nazi's last days in the bunker, based in part on the secretary featured in the documentary "Blind Spot."

"HOSTAGE" (R)
 Bruce Willis plays a former LAPD expert hostage negotiator who moves to a sleepy town, only to find himself in the middle of a major hostage situation.

"THE PASSION RECUT" (NR)
 Just in time for Easter, a new cut of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the

Christ," allegedly less violent but still not able to qualify for a PG-13, is being released without a rating.

"ROBOTS" (PG)
 From the director of "Ice Age" comes an animated feature about a world of mechanical beings, who are voiced by Robin Williams, Ewan McGregor, Halle Berry and Greg Kinnear.

"SCHULTZE GETS THE BLUES" (PG)
 A German miner retires and becomes obsessed with Louisiana zydeco music. (In German with subtitles.)

tale spins a mournfully sweet drama of family bonds, it remains firmly rooted in the bleak industrial grit of the Scottish seaside port where it is set. Frankie is a 9-year-old deaf boy perpetually on the move with his mother, Lizzie (Emily Mortimer), and grandma, who fear the boy's absent father. Unable to bring herself to share the cold truth with Frankie, his mother has concocted an elaborate fantasy about a distant dad sailing the seas on a commercial vessel. — D. Germain. (PG-13: language.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. B+

"DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN": Tyler Perry brings his act and his down-home African-American comedy to the big screen. "Dear Diary," Helen (Kimberly Elise) begins each day's voice-over entry. When her marriage ends, she goes home to her non-nonsense Aunt Maudie (a cross-dressing creation of Perry). She's a pistol-packing, pot-tolerant mama who preaches "Get even." With Cicely Tyson as Helen's mother. — R. Moore. (PG-13: drug content, thematic elements, crude sexual references, some violence.) 1 hour, 56 minutes. C-

"FINDING NEVERLAND": Supposedly about how Scottish playwright J.M. Barrie came to write his beloved 1904 play "Peter Pan." But don't expect realism from this fanciful film starring Johnny Depp as Barrie and Kate Winslet as the widow, with three unruly sons, who supposedly inspired the story. — M. Pols. (PG: mild thematic elements, brief language.) 1 hour, 41 minutes. B

"GUNNER PALACE": From documentarians Michael Tucker and Petra Epperlein comes a frank look at the war in Iraq, conveying the curious mix of tedium and tension American troops face on an everyday basis. A group of soldiers are stationed in one of Saddam Hussein's bombed-out palaces, complete with swimming pool, putting range and stocked fish pond. The incongruity of that setting, coupled with the difficulties of what the soldiers jokingly call "minor combat," makes for a compelling and compassionate portrait of today's soldiers. — M. Pols. (PG-13: language.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. B+

"HITCH": Will Smith is ultracharming as the title character in this light romantic comedy about a Manhattan man who runs a dating consulting business for men looking for love. As the "Date Doctor," and as cynical and fearful of love as he is, Hitch finds his life unsettled when he meets a beautiful gossip columnist (Eva Mendes). Has some contrivances of the genre, but still fun. With TV's Kevin James as Hitch's most challenging client. — M. Pols. (PG-13: language, some strong sexual references.) 1 hour, 55 minutes. B-

"HOTEL RWANDA": A story so powerful and interesting that flaws in the storytelling don't much matter. Don

Cheadle stars as real-life hero Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel manager in the capitol of Rwanda. He's made a career out of being obsequious, but when ethnic violence breaks out and Hutus begin massacring Tutsis, he must make a stand. Through quiet intelligence and his own willingness to be humble, he saves more than 1,200 people. An Oscar-worthy performance by Cheadle. — M. Pols. (PG-13: violence, disturbing images and brief, strong language.) 2 hours, 1 minute. A-

"THE JACKET": Adrien Brody plays a Gulf War vet falsely accused of a crime. He ends up in a home for the criminally insane, where some unorthodox treatments ordered by the requisite diabolical doctor (Kris Kristofferson) cause him to time-travel. On his journey, he meets an unstable, angry young woman (Keira Knightley) who may hold the key to his past. Or maybe it's all in his mind. If you require answers, you'll find it infuriating; if you like ambiguity, you'll groove on the story. Brody is rather touching. — M. Pols. (R: violence, language and brief sexuality/nudity.) 1 hour, 43 minutes. C+

"MAN OF THE HOUSE": Tommy Lee Jones stars in this logic-free comedy as a Texas Ranger dispatched to protect a quintet of University of Texas cheerleaders. With Cedric the Entertainer as an ex-con turned preacher to provide the big yuks. There are some minimal pleasures to be gleaned from the facials and max-pad moments. — W. Morris. (PG-13: violence, sexual content, crude humor, a drug reference.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. C

"MILLION DOLLAR BABY": Clint Eastwood directs and stars in the story of an ambitious boxer, Maggie (Hilary Swank), and her crusty but adored trainer, Frankie (Eastwood). The picture is very good, mostly for the interesting twist it takes midway, but it's over-typed and laced with trite elements, including the voice-over narration of Morgan Freeman, who plays Frankie's only friend and right-hand man. — M. Pols. (PG-13: violence, some disturbing images, thematic material and language.) 2 hours, 12 minutes. B+

"THE MERCHANT OF VENICE": Jeremy Irons, Al Pacino and Joseph Fiennes star in this better-than-average Shakespeare retelling. Watching the film is like seeing a gallery of Renaissance paintings come to life, and while the effect is occasionally contrived, it mostly deepens the wonder and strangeness of the play. Judiciously trimmed to manageable length, this "Merchant" is, for the most part, faithful in letter and spirit. To its source material. — A.O. Scott. (R: some nudity.) 2 hours, 7 minutes. B+

See REVIEWS, Page C4



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Consultant
Ext. 20



Darren Huston
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
Branch Manager
Ext. 17



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Calendar

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against clock to write, rehearse and perform seven brand-new plays within 24 hours. Play and auction benefits Women's Will 2005 season. Tickets: \$12-25 sliding scale, at door. www.juliamorgan.org.

■ **La Pena Cultural Center**, 3105 Shattuck Ave., hosts the upcoming events: Leilani Chan's "You So Fake!" & Shyamala Moorthy's "Rise" 8 p.m. March 11, \$10. — **Holly Near & Ronnie Gilbert** 7:30 p.m. March 12, \$18-\$20. — 6th annual **In Song & Struggle** 7-9:30 p.m. March 13, \$10. — **Paradise's CD celebration**: 12th annual **Cleopatra's Ball** 7 p.m. March 16, \$10. — **Rhythm in Reason** with Welfare Poets, Youth Movement Records 9 p.m. March 18, \$7-\$10. — **Lichi Fuentes**, Claudia Tenorio & Cava 7:30 p.m. March 19, \$12-\$14. — **La Pena Latin Jazz Ensemble** 7 p.m. March 20, \$10. — **Domínguez Rumba** 3:30 p.m. March 20, April 3. — 9th International Latino Film Festival-SF Bay Area presents "Dirt" 7:30 p.m. March 23, \$8. — **Salsa dancing** with Oriental and Loco Bloco 6-10 p.m. March 24, \$10-\$12. — **"La Gloria Eres Tu, Bolero; its History and Music"** 8:30 p.m. March 25, \$12-\$15. — **Georges Lammam Ensemble** 8 p.m. March 26, \$20. — **Rafael Manriquez & Duamuxa** 8 p.m. April 1, \$12. — **Rebecca Mauleon & Quintet** concert and workshop starts at 4 p.m. April 2, \$15. — **Cuba Solidarity Event** is 7 p.m. April 3, \$5-\$10. — **Rhythms in Reason** 9 p.m. April 8, \$7-\$10. — **Madmedia's Pochó** and **Colored Ink** 8 p.m. April 9, \$7-\$10. — **Horacio Salinas** 8 p.m. April 10, \$12. Details: call 510-849-2558 or go to www.lapena.org.

■ **UC Berkeley's Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies** presents **Anton Chekhov's "Three Sisters"** at 8 p.m. on March 11, 12, at 2 p.m. on March 13 at the Zellerbach Playhouse on the UC Berkeley Campus. Tickets: \$8-\$14; <http://theater.berkeley.edu> or call 510-642-9925.

■ **Word for Word Performing Arts Company** presents "Stories by Tobias Wolff" at 8 p.m. on March 11, 12 at Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2840 College Ave. Tickets: \$25 at door. Details: go to www.juliamorgan.org.

■ **Cal Performances** presents **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** 8 p.m. March 11; 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. March 12; 3 p.m. March 13; 8 p.m. March 16-18; 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. March 19; 3 p.m. March 20 at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Tickets: \$32-\$54. Details: 510-642-9988.

■ **UC Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive** presents **23rd San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival**: March 11: 7 p.m. "Ethan Mao," 9:15 p.m. "Keka." — March 12: 5 p.m. "And Thereafter," 7 p.m. "Oldboy," 9:45 p.m. "Cutie Honey." — March 13: 3:45 p.m. "A Fond Kiss," 6 p.m. "Turtles Can Fly," 8:10 p.m. "Dumplings." — March 14: 7:30 p.m. "The People of Angkor." — March 15: 7:30 p.m. "62 Years and 6500 Miles Between." — March 16: 7:30 p.m. "Cavite." — March 19: 12:30 p.m. "Evolution of a Filipino Family." — March 20: 12:30 p.m. "Evolution of a Filipino Family." Details: go to www.bampfa.berkeley.edu.

■ **Live at Ashkenaz**, 1307 San Pablo Ave., presents: Traditional Cuban Son music of Palenque 9 p.m. March 12, \$13. — **Kotoja: The Afrobeat Experience**. Free African dance lesson at 9 p.m. April 30, followed by shows at 9:30 p.m. — Cost: \$13 general, \$11 students w/ID, unless otherwise noted. Details: call 510-525-5054 or go to www.Ashkenaz.com.

■ **Sam Shepard's Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Buried Child"** shows through March 13 at **Contra Costa Civic Theatre**, 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. Play runs 8 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays; and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$10. Reservations: 510-524-9132 or www.cccct.org.

■ **Shotgun Players Theatre Lab** presents a foolsFURY incubator project "Monster in the Dark" 8 p.m. March 14-29 at the Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave. Tickets: \$10; call 510-841-8500. Details: go to www.shotgunplayers.org.

■ **"Frank Olivier's Twisted Cabaret 2005"** is 8 p.m. March 16, 19 and 2 p.m. March 20 at Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2840 College Ave. Frank Olivier and his sidekick Paul Nathan perform a variety show: 12 different acts including juggling, fire eating, magic, knife throwing, dancing girls, contortion, a unicycle ballet, \$12-\$20; call 925-798-1300. www.juliamorgan.org.

■ **Gil Chun's Bay Area Follies** presents a lively program of tap and ballroom dancing, hula, and musical comedy at 2 p.m. & 7 p.m. March 20 at Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison St.

■ **Central Works Theatre Ensemble** presents "Enemy Combatant: the story

of an American Traitor" Thurs., Fri., Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 5 p.m. through March 26 at Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave. Timely new drama takes case of John Walker Lindh, so-called "American Taliban" as its point of departure. Tickets: \$20-\$28 sliding scale. 510-558-1381 or go to www.centralworks.org.

■ **UC Berkeley** presents "The Stories of Eva Luna" 8 p.m. March 31-April 2, 2 p.m. April 2 at Zellerbach Hall's Room 7. Three short works by Isabel Allende. Tickets: \$5; go to <http://theater.berkeley.edu> or call 510-642-9925.

■ **Cal Performances** presents **Cudamani: Music and Dance from Bali** 8 p.m. April 1 at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Tickets: \$24-\$46. 510-642-9988.

■ **C-Town Performing Arts** presents "Hillsville U.S.A." 2005 Tour at 8 p.m. April 1, 6 p.m. April 2, 3 at Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2840 College Ave. Play chronicles the stormy years of Barry Gordy's first marriage to Ray Singleton. Go back to the 1960s with Gordy, Singleton and Diana Ross for this brash and humorous story. Tickets: \$15-\$35; call 925-798-1300. Details: go to www.juliamorgan.org.

■ **Shotgun Players** presents **Albert Camus' "The Just"** Thursdays-Sundays at 8 p.m. through April 10 at the Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave. Examines an assassination during the 1905 Russian Revolution. Tickets: \$10-\$30 sliding scale. www.shotgunplayers.org or 510-841-6500.

Learning

■ **Vista Community College**, 2020 Milvia St., presents the following workshops: "In-House Tour Operations" March 12. — Business, computer and information technology classes begin March 16. For class schedule and details, go to www.peralta.cc.ca.us or call 510-981-2852.

■ **Ecology Center** presents: "Green Building 101" at 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on March 12 at 2530 San Pablo Ave. Learn about healthier building materials, and how to lower your utility bills, reduce home maintenance, and minimize remodeling construction waste. Greg Van-Mechelen, Architect, presents ways to incorporate green building materials and methods into your home remodeling and improvement projects. Call to register. Cost: \$10 EC members, \$15 general. — Details/registration: call 510-548-2220 x233, erc@ecologycenter.org.

■ **La Pena Cultural Center** presents drumming classes with master drummer & oud player Mohsen on Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. through March 12 at 3105 Shattuck Ave. For ages 11-up. Mohsen at 415-317-2927.

■ **St. John's Prime Times Senior Center** offers classes in exercise, ceramics, copper enameling, weaving, creative writing, and monthly speakers on matters of current interest and travel slide presentations. Newcomers, seniors over 50 welcome. Lunch for minimal charge. Senior group meets at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday mornings; with upcoming highlights as follows: 11 a.m. March 15 Nick Brown sings, plays folk music, classical, old favorites and hosts a sing-along. — 11 a.m. March 22 Charles Fitch shows travel slides. — St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave. 510-845-6830.

■ **Brian Swimme, PhD**, and **Pamela Eakins, PhD**, will speak on "The Path of Power, a Journey into Healing" at 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. March 19 at Sophia Center, Heafly Hall, Room 658/550, Holy Names University, 3500 Mountain Blvd. Authors Swimme and Eakins will elucidate their 10 cosmological powers, which provide a vision crucial for healing of spiritual crisis and physical hard-

ships. Dialogue and light refreshments follow event. Free.

■ **Shotgun Players** present the following Monday Movement Workshops at Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2840 College Ave.: "Movement for the Working Actor" 7-10 p.m. March 21. Fee: \$35. — "Self-Defense Workshop" 10 a.m.-1 p.m. April 16. Fee: \$75. To enroll: call Marilyn Stanley 510-845-8542 x301, email marilyn@juliamorgan.org, or go to www.juliamorgan.org.

■ **Shotgun Players** present the following theater classes for adults at Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2840 College Ave.: "Directing: the Process" Mondays 7:30-10:30 p.m. through April 11. — "Auditioning with Confidence and Truth" Saturdays 2-5 p.m. through April 16. — "Acting from the Heart and Head" Sundays 1:30-4:30 p.m. through April 24. Fee for each class: \$300. To enroll: call Marilyn Stanley 510-845-8542 x301, email marilyn@juliamorgan.org, or go to www.juliamorgan.org.

■ **Vocal Jazz Workshops** for teenagers & adults with leader Richard Kalman are Saturdays through April 23 at Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. 12-2 p.m. is Beginner-jazz repertoire and style classes; 2:30-4 p.m. is Intermediate-developing style and interpretation classes. Workshop introduces singers to solo jazz repertoire and develops expressive singing skills. Intermediate Classes open to instrumentalists as well. Details, registration: call 510-524-9283 or go to www.albanyca.org.

Literary events

■ **79th annual Poets' Dinner** contest winners will be announced 11:30 a.m. March 12 at Spenger's Restaurant, 1919-4th St. Lunch tickets \$23 advance, \$24 at door. Details: call 510-841-1217.

■ **Poetry Flash** schedule at **Cody's Books**, 2454 Telegraph Ave.: Chana Bloch, Sandra Gilbert at 7:30 p.m. March 13. — Julie Carr, Evelyn Reilly at 7:30 p.m. March 20. — Len Anderson, Tobey Kaplan at 7:30 p.m. March 27. Cost: \$2. Details: call 510-845-7852.

■ **Poetry Express** weekly open mike is on Mondays at 7 p.m. at Priya Indian Cuisine, 2727 San Pablo Ave. After 5 p.m., mention reading for a 20 percent meal discount. Event hosted by Mark States. Upcoming featured poets: March 14 Bucky Sinister; March 21 Tom Odegaard; March 28 theme night "mothers and sisters." Details: email berkeleypoetryexpress@yahoo.com.

■ **Berkeley Public Library** presents "Serving the People - Body and Soul The Black Panther Party Photographs" exhibit in first floor lobby through March 19 at 2090 Kittredge St. Details: call 510-981-6100 or go to www.berkeley-publiclibrary.org.

■ **Black Oak Books** presents reading with poets Ismael Reed, Tennessee Reed, Kathryn Waddell Takara & Hatian poet Boadilla at 7:30 p.m. March 21 at 1491 Shattuck Ave. Details: call 510-486-0698.

■ **The Whole Note Poetry Series** is at 7 p.m. on alternating Tuesdays at the Beane, 2925 College Ave., with upcoming guests: March 22: Irish night with Judy Wells and Dale Jensen. — April 12: John Curl and Reginald Lockett. — April 26: Anniversary-Allen Cohen Birthday with Ann Cohen and TBA. — Details: call Jesse 510-549-9093.

■ **Readers Anonymous**, the El Cerrito Library Book Club moderated by Michele Hampshire, presents upcoming selections for meetings held at 7-8 p.m. at 6510 Stockton Ave.: "When the Emperor was Divine" by Julie Otsuka on March 22; "In the Time of the Butterflies" by Julia Alvarez on April 26; "Midwinter" by Jeffrey Eugenides on May 24; "The Curious Incident of the Dog in

the Night-time" by Mark Haddon on June 28; and "The Time Traveler's Wife" by Audrey Niffenegger on July 26. Free. Details: call 510-526-7512 or go to www.cccblib.org.

■ **UC Berkeley's International House**, 2299 Piedmont Ave., presents "A Vision of Hope" narrative essay contest to address prejudice and stereotyping experienced by people and groups throughout the world in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks upon the United States. Deadline to submit entries is March 27, all entrants receive a free six month I-House membership. Winners announced in early May. Ten essays winners receive \$1,000 cash prizes. For guidelines, information call 510-642-9460.

■ **Seventh annual "Very Young Persons' Premiere Poetry"** event, dedicated to Community Gardener Karl Linn, who died last year, is 2-4 p.m. April 16 at Allen Ginsberg Memorial Poetry Garden, Berkeley Arts Magnet at John Greenleaf Whittier School at Lincoln & Milvia Streets. Elementary students and their teachers, parents, older siblings, neighbors and friends and others are invited to read or perform a poem at the annual Open Mike Poetry Reading.

Meetings/lectures

■ **Tanner Lectures Committee** presents public lecture series "Reification: A Recognition-Theoretical View" by Axel Honneth, Director of the Institute for Social Research and Professor of Philosophy at Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe University, Frankfurt/Main. Lecture One: "The Priority of Recognition over Cognition" is 4:10 p.m. March 14. — Lecture Two: "Reification as Loss of Recognitional Attitudes" is 4:10 p.m. March 15. — Seminar and Discussion is 4:10 p.m. March 16. A reception follows seminar. Location for all events: Toll Room, Alumni House, UC Berkeley campus. Free. www.grad.berkeley.edu/tanner, 510-643-7413, or lectures@berkeley.edu.

■ **UC Berkeley's College of Letters & Science** presents director/filmmaker **Oliver Stone** discussing his recent epic movie, "Alexander" at 7:30 p.m. March 14 in UC Berkeley's Wheeler Auditorium. Event is in relation to the scholarly pursuit of classics and is part of "The College Presents," a free, public event series. Stone will join Ralph Hexter, UC Berkeley dean of arts and humanities and professor of classics and comparative literature.

■ **UC Berkeley Faculty Research Lecture** "Norms of Inquiry: Academic Freedom and Disciplinary Innovation in Difficult Times" is 5 p.m. March 29 at UC Berkeley Art Museum Theater, 2621 Durant Ave. Details: go to www.urel.berkeley.edu/faculty or call 510-643-7799.

Music

■ **Jazzschool**, 2087 Addison St., presents the following events: Sunday Night Jazzschool Jam Sessions every Sunday, 7:30-10 p.m. An open-mike featuring David Michel Ruddy Quartet where instrumentalists and vocalists are welcome to sit in. Free. — Frank Martin Trio 8 p.m. March 11, \$18. — Kellye Gray 8 p.m. March 12. — Dave Lefebvre 4:30 p.m. March 13. — Darren Johnston's United Brassworkers Front 4:30 p.m. March 20, \$12-\$15. — Art of the Trio Series: Art Lande Trio 8 p.m. March 26. — Sarah Manning Quartet 4:30 p.m. March 27. — Jazzschool Students' Concerts March 29-April 2. Free. — Lavay Smith And Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers 4:30 p.m. April 3, \$20. — Tickets \$12-\$18 unless otherwise noted. Advance tickets: call 866-384-3060.

■ **MusicSources** presents an "Evening with Bach in Zimmerman's Coffee



CAL PERFORMANCES presents Cudamani: Music and Dance from Bali, featuring 25 young virtuoso performers of the gamelan ensemble at 8 p.m. on April 1 at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Tickets: \$24-\$46. Details: 510-642-9988.

"House" at 7 p.m. on March 11 at St. Albans Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington Ave., Albany. A recreation of Bach's favorite Friday night activity in Leipzig. Cost: \$75; call 510-528-1685.

■ **Contra Costa Chorale's** March concerts: 2 p.m. March 12 at El Cerrito United Methodist Church, 6830 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito; and 8 p.m. March 18 at Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, One Lawson Road, Kensington. Featured are works of Brahms, Mozart, Bach, Finzi, and more. Tickets \$12-\$15. Under 16 free. 510-514-1861.

■ **Starry Plough Club**, 3101 Shattuck Ave., presents upcoming shows: March 12 The Wilders, Crooked Jades. — Details: call 510-841-2082 or go to www.starryploughclub.com. Shows at 9:30 p.m., for ages 21-up unless noted.

■ **Jazz: Gela** with Berkeley High School Jazz Ensemble, Lab Band and award-winning small combos at 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. March 13 at Berkeley Repertory Theater. Event is benefit for BHS music program, helps support a doubling in number of students in the jazz program that occurred over last year. Wine, lunch by Poulet, silent auction. Tickets: \$25-\$75; Lori Ferguson at 510-527-8245 or www.berkeleyhighjazz.org.

See CALENDAR Pg.

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MAC'S COMING EVENT

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| MARCH 8 Single Malt Scotch Tasting & Special Dinner | MARCH 15 Wine Tasting 5-7 pm Meritage 18 Wineries | MARCH 17 St. Patrick's Day Celebration featuring Tullamore Dew Irish Whiskey | MARCH 29 Winemaker Dinner Kunde Estates |
|---|---|--|---|

• LUNCH • DINNERS • BANQUETS

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Calendar

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Class: Parisian Café Music in a setting with refreshments. Admission: \$50. 510-525-5211 or go to www.berkeleychamberperform.org.

Music ensemble **Magnificat** presents works of Heinrich Schutz at 8 p.m. March 19 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way. Tickets: 12-14. Details: call 415-979-4500.

Baroque Orchestra presents "Mozart's Quartet" 8 p.m. March 19, 7:30 p.m. March 20 at First Presbyterian Church, 2345 Channing. Works of Mozart, Haydn, Vivaldi, and Righini. Tickets: \$28-\$62; call 415-4400 or go to www.philharmonia.org. Details: call 415-252-1288.

Performances presents **Miro** 3 p.m. March 20 at UC Berkeley-Haas Hall. Program of Beethoven, Brahms. Tickets: \$38. Details: 415-642-9988.

MusicSource, 1000 the Alameda, presents harpsichordist Tamara Loring at 5 p.m. March 20. Featured works of Frescobaldi, Bach, Richter, and Scarlatti. Tickets: \$28-\$62; call 415-4400 or go to www.philharmonia.org. Details: call 415-252-1288.

Performances presents the **McBride Quartet** at 8 p.m. March 25 at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Admission: \$18-\$32. Details: call 415-642-9988.

Performances presents pianist **Yefim Bronfman** 8 p.m. March 26 at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Tickets: \$24-\$46. Details: 510-642-9988.

Performances presents the **Quartet** in an all-Beethoven program 3 p.m. April 3 at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Tickets: \$42. Details: 510-642-9988.

Performances presents all-female vocal ensemble **Sweet Honey** in concert 8 p.m. April 8 at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Tickets: \$24-\$46. Details: call 510-642-9988.

Performances presents the **Kirov** orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre 8 p.m. April 9 at Zellerbach Hall. Tickets: \$12. Details: 510-642-9988.

Performances presents jazz with **Wayne Shorter Quartet** 7 p.m. April 10 at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Tickets: \$24-\$46. 510-642-9988.

Performances presents mezzo-soprano **Susan Graham** in concert 8 p.m. April 13 at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Tickets: 28-\$48. 510-642-9988.

Berkeley Public Library's "Second Fridays" **Noontime Concert Series** presents Vincent Spaulding on solo guitar 12-15 p.m. on April 14 in Art & Music Room, top floor, 2090 Kittredge. Free concerts: May 12: James Taylor, piano; and June 9: Liza Foltz, soprano. 510-981-6100 or www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org.

Women's Vocal Ensemble is holding auditions for its spring season, culminating in mid-May. The 24-voice group mostly performs classical music from a wide variety of historical periods; this spring's repertoire includes Brahms, Debussy, and several premieres of new works by local composers. Audition dates: For audition scheduling: contact Director Jude Navari at 415-425-1215. Details: call Administrative Director Meyers at 510-531-8714 or go to www.berkeleycommunity.org/voci.

Rock Nine performs every Friday 8:30-9:30 p.m. at King Tsin Chinese Restaurant, 1699 Solano Ave.

Outdoors

University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley, 200 Centennial Avenue, offers the following: "Sick Plant" tour 9 a.m.-12 p.m. April 2. Free. Registration necessary. — Visit a pre-

mier botanical collection daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m., free every Thursday. Free Docent Tours 1:30 p.m. Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays. — 510-643-2755 or go to www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu.

Berkeley Garden Club presents "Propagation for the Home Gardener", a talk by Kathy Echols, Instructor at Diablo Valley College Horticulture Department at 2 p.m. March 15 at Epworth Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins St. Meeting is at 1 p.m. 510-524-4374.

"Bay-Friendly Gardening Basics" free workshop is 10 a.m.-1 p.m. March 19 at Lakeside Park's Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave. Register online at 510-444-7645 or go to www.bayfriendly.org.

Learn to feed and care for orphaned baby birds: house sparrows, starlings and pigeons are introduced species that are not afforded care by rehabilitation groups. You can make an important contribution in returning these species to the wild life they deserve to have. Free training and some supplies. Details: call Myrna 510-531-3042 or Lelia 510-655-3911.

East Bay Regional Park Botanical Garden Tilden Park, presents regular tours, seven days a week. Week days 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturdays, and Sundays 2 p.m. Special tours by appointment. Details: call 510-841-8732. For class schedule, call 925-820-1021.

Religion

Celebrate pride with New Spirit Community Church, a special worship service celebrating LGBT spirituality and pride in the East Bay at 11 a.m. on Sundays at Pacific School of Religion Chapel, 1798 Scenic Ave. Details: call 510-704-7729 or go to www.newspiritchurch.org.

Support

Older People United invites those over 75 years old to discuss problems of getting older, looking for solutions and getting helpful information. Jean Reyes, Gray Panther, leads group at Gray Panther Office, 1403 Addison St. Details: call 510-548-9696 or email GrayPanthersBerk@aol.com.

Free Drop-In Support Group for Family/Friends Who Care for Older Adults (in-person, nearby or long distance) meets at 4:50 p.m. on third Wednesdays monthly at Herrick Campus of Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, 2001 Dwight Way. It is sponsored by the Alta Bates Summit Medical Center Psychiatry Department. This is a confidential place to discuss personal and practical issues in relation to caregiving of older adults.

Narconon Arrowhead — Do you know how to cope with an addict? Narconon Arrowhead offers free addiction counseling, assessments and referrals to rehabilitation centers nationwide and locally. Call 1-800-468-9933 or go to www.stopaddiction.com.

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-East Bay Chapter is sponsoring a free monthly family support group at Albany United Methodist Church, 980 Stannage Ave., Albany. Details: call 510-524-1250.

Mid-Life Women's Group meets on Mondays at 7 - 8:30 p.m. for support, friendship and sharing issues, with an experienced facilitator. For more information, call 510-237-2210.

Fibromyalgia Support Group of Berkeley assists those coping with Fibromyalgia and the people who support them. Details: call 510-644-3273.

Charcot Marie Tooth support group meets quarterly from 2 - 4 p.m. at the Albany Library, 1247 Marine Ave. CMT is a neuropathic disorder. Details: call Gail Whitehouse at 408-425-5629.

Teen Support Group meets twice a month Tuesday evenings at the Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave. The free group is for teens who have a parent or caregiver with cancer. The meeting is co-facilitated by a teen whose mother had breast cancer. Details: call 510-531-7551.

Ann Martin Children's Center offers eight "Support Groups For Mothers," sessions for first-time mothers and babies (under 5 months). Experienced facilitator. Details: 510-524-0821.

Berkeley Parkinson's Support Group meet from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Mondays at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda @ Los Angeles. Call Irene at 510-524-4847 or Mitzi at 510-527-9075.

Overeaters Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women from all walks of life who meet in order to help solve a common problem, compulsive overeating. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively. One group meets on Fridays at 1:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda (at Solano) in Berkeley—downstairs—wheelchair accessible. Current information about OA and other OA meetings can be found at www.oaeastbay.org or call Katherine at 510-525-5231.

Overeaters Anonymous — Have a problem with food? Twelve-step support groups dealing with these issues meet at 10:30 a.m. Sundays at Mandana Community Recovery Center, 3989 Howe St. in Oakland (enter on 41st Street Way); 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Piedmont Community Church, 400 Highland (enter on Mountain, parallel to Highland); 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at Piedmont Gardens, 110 41st St.; and 6 p.m. Fridays at East Bay Church of Religious Science, 4130 Telegraph Ave. Details: call 510-923-9491.

Forty-Plus Free — Introduction and Orientation meet from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on Mondays at 7700 Bridgeway Drive Ste 826, Oakland. The organization offers a comprehensive career transition program uniquely suited to the needs of mature managers, executives and professionals. Details: call 510-568-7587 or go to www.fortyplus.org.

The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Maffly Auditorium, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Details: call 510-204-4503.

Alta Bates Support Groups - Arthritis Support Group meets the second Tuesday of every month; 1 - 2:30 p.m. Call for additional special events. Details: 510-204-4503.

Alta Bates Rehabilitation Center and **East Bay Neurology** sponsors a free monthly stroke support group. No advance reservations are required, drop in anytime. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4 - 5 p.m. in the Maffly Auditorium on Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight way, Berkeley. Details: call 510-204-4503.



WORD FOR WORD PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY

WORD FOR WORD Performing Arts Company presents "Stories by Tobias Wolff" today and tomorrow at 8 p.m. at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Word for Word is going to tour France, and this year it takes its popular 2002 show, "Stories by Tobias Wolff." This show played to sold out crowds, and these special performances are to benefit the company's upcoming Tour de France. Reception to follow. Word for Word is dedicated to performing short works of fiction in their entirety. Tickets: \$25 at the door. For more information visit www.juliamorgan.org

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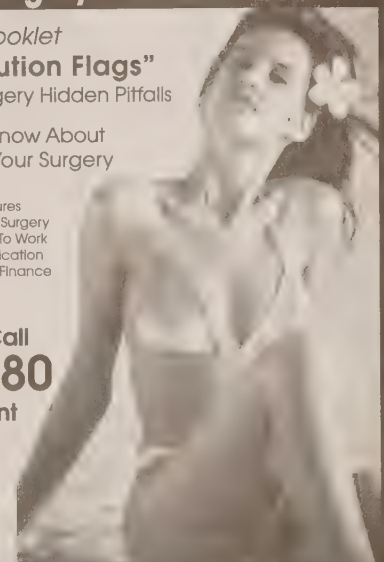
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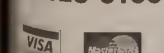


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Rubens

...PAGE C10

There is a way, however, to the heart and soul of the described as one of the creative geniuses in the history of art. A collection of preliminary oil sketches is now at the UC Berkeley Art Museum through May 15.

The word "sketch" conveys, accurately, the sense of the artist's hand almost in our grasp, but not the heightened depth of personal and religious devotion these works. Some are little more than 6-by-6 inches in size, but they often have a larger impact.

31 sketches and two engravings in the exhibit, "Drawn with a Brush: Oil Sketches by Peter Paul Rubens," offer an intimate display of Old Master work in UC Berkeley's modern museum.

As surprising is the fact "The Road to Calvary," one of the most dramatic and exquisite oil sketches, is part of the museum's own collection, housed in 1966 before the exhibit opened. Done about 1630, it depicts Christ bound under the weight of his cross, but gazing directly at the viewer.

Another standout in the exhibit is "The Last Supper" (1621), a design for a Jesuit ceiling in Antwerp, Belgium that gains drama from its color and foreshortened perspective, meant to be seen below. "Three Nymphs and a Cornucopia" (1627-28) is a study for a fresco with nearly fleshly "Head of a Negro" (1618-19) with personality but,



PAINTED IN GRAY AND BROWN TONES, "The Three Graces," daughters of Zeus in Greek mythology, were shown nude because they were considered to be without deceit.

surprisingly, never became part of a large-scale painting.

If Rubens' large-scale paintings are overwhelming, this collection is meant to be underwhelming — an intimate glimpse into his private thoughts, his spark of inspiration. And yes, you can see his brush strokes.

The Berkeley museum curator, Lucinda Barnes, says the exhibit is like walking into the artist's studio. The oil sketches look so fresh that you can imagine that Rubens just went out for lunch, leaving some paintings finished, others as studies in progress. Nymphs, bears, dragons, Samson and Delilah, the Virgin Mary and the Christ Child are frozen in time.

Over the centuries, Rubens' preliminary oil sketches have become just as interesting to artists and collectors as the ultimate works, which might be paintings, altarpieces, engravings or tapestries. The Berkeley exhibit originated four years ago when Barnes contacted curator Marjorie Wiesman at the Cincinnati Art Museum, which owns the "Samson and Delilah." They then involved Peter Sutton of the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Conn., where the exhibit began its three-city tour last fall.

In his introduction to the exhibit catalog, Sutton explains that Rubens' oil sketches were an integral part of his working methods and studio practices.

In full color, or in more muted shades, they might be a way for him to explore composition and lighting, present options to church or secular patrons, or prepare extremely detailed drawing for engravers or tapestry-makers.

"Nothing reveals more clearly the ways in which his muscular and agile mind worked than the study of his more intimately scaled drawings and oil sketches," Sutton writes. More than 450 oil sketches survive since Rubens' death in 1640.

Museum visitors expecting the "great operatic productions" of Rubens' paintings will be surprised by the "chamber music" of his oil sketches, Barnes says. But it's just as striking to discover his mastery of groups and crowds and personal interplay on such a small scale.

Rubens' "St. Gregory of Nazianzus" (1620-21) is awash with emotional drama, suggesting one of Handel's great oratorios condensed to the size of a small painting. Gregory, a bishop of Constantinople in the fourth century, is depicted in voluminous robes in a stormy setting, plunging his staff into the demon of heresy.

It's a breathtaking scene, and it's difficult to imagine this sketch having more impact in its final version, a ceiling painting in the Jesuit church in Antwerp. We will never know. Less than 100 years after its dedication, the church was struck by lightning and Rubens' ceiling paintings were destroyed in a disastrous fire. Thankfully, this oil sketch of St. Gregory, and "The Last Supper," survive.

Reach Robert Taylor at 925-977-8428 or rtaylor@cctimes.com.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BEST SELLERS

Compiled from sales at 45 independent bookstores in Northern California.

Fiction

1. "The Broker," by John Grisham. (Doubleday, \$27.95.)
2. "Prep," by Curtis Sittenfeld. (Random House, \$21.95.)
3. "Prince of Fire," by Daniel Silva. (Putnam, \$25.95.)
4. "Kafka on the Shore," by Haruki Murakami. (Knopf, \$25.95.)
5. "The Five People You Meet in Heaven," by Mitch Albom. (Hyperion, \$16.95.)
6. "Honeymoon," by James Patterson and Howard Roughan. (Little, Brown, \$27.95.)
7. "The Forgotten Man," by Robert Crais. (Doubleday, \$24.95.)
8. "Strange Affair," by Peter Robinson. (William Morrow, \$24.95.)
9. "The Schopenhauer Cure," by Irvin D. Yalom. (HarperCollins, \$24.95.)
10. "A Thread of Grace," by Mary Doria Russell. (Random House, \$25.95.)

Nonfiction

1. "French Women Don't Get Fat," by Mireille Guiliano. (Knopf, \$22.)
2. "Blink," by Malcolm Gladwell. (Little, Brown, \$25.95.)
3. "Collapse," by Jared Diamond. (Viking, \$29.95.)
4. "God's Politics," by Jim Wallis. (HarperSanFrancisco, \$24.95.)
5. "America (The Book)," by Jon Stewart and the "Daily Show" staff. (Warner, \$24.95.)
6. "Animals in Translation," by Temple Grandin and Catherine Johnson. (Scribner, \$25.)
7. "Juiced," by Jose Canseco. (Regan Books, \$25.95.)
8. "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man," by John Perkins. (Berrett-Koehler, \$24.95.)
9. "On Food and Cooking," by Harold J. McGee. (Scribner, \$35.)
10. "What's the Matter with Kansas?" by Thomas Frank. (Metropolitan, \$24.)

Trade paperback nonfiction

1. "Don't Think of an Elephant," by George Lakoff. (Chelsea Green, \$10.)
2. "Bad Cat," by Jim Edgar. (Workman, \$9.95.)
3. "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill," by Mark Bittner. (Three Rivers, \$12.95.)
4. "Reading Lolita in Tehran," by Azar Nafisi. (Random House, \$13.95.)
5. "The Fabric of the Cosmos," by Brian Greene. (Vintage, \$15.95.)
6. "The Tipping Point," by Malcolm Gladwell. (Back Bay, \$14.95.)
7. "The Bookseller of Kabul," by Asne Sjoerstad. (Back Bay, \$12.95.)
8. "The Devil in the White City," by Erik Larson. (Vintage, \$14.95.)
9. "Zagat San Francisco Bay Area Restaurants," (Zagat Survey, \$12.95.)
10. "The Hidden Messages in Water," by Masaru Emoto. (Beyond Words, \$16.95.)

Mass market paperback

1. "Angels & Demons," by Dan Brown. (Pocket, \$7.99.)
2. "The Narrows," by Michael Connelly. (Warner, \$7.99.)
3. "High Country," by Nevada Barr. (Berkley, \$7.99.)
4. "Deception Point," by Dan Brown. (Pocket, \$7.99.)
5. "Digital Fortress," by Dan Brown. (St. Martin's, \$7.99.)

— Northern California Independent Booksellers Association

STO

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Chair Bistro, at chef Henry Vintner's Salad and you may feel like you're in the Bay Area's most conservative restaurant. Vintner's salad is anti-Waters, a naturalistic construction: a soft bed of greens bound within a chicken sheath, accessorized with garnet grapes, walnut and playful wisps of thin Gruyere. The plate is a single edible orchid.

Even if, with all this extra tailoring, the tangy vinaigrette has to be on and around the set rather than tossed with them, I'm the only one at the table who seems to mind. The spectacle of the thing is his magic.

Around: The mostly festive crowd is crowding the dining room, a tall, thin figure stopping at each table. The lady in the black collar beams, the one striped silk blouse shakes and the one in the sweater with applique roses the food is so good her face is happy.

At Montclair Bistro's, the chef's densely seeded exclamation, which extends to the Mixed Grill of Seared Filet Mignon and Maine Lobster (\$26) is a thickly cropped land of pink, squishy meat and lobster, braised greens and fingerling potato.

A violet orchid, its potato garnishes thin and fragile, and rose petals, the plate is enchanting. But the red reduction sauce is salty with white pepper; the lobster, not sautéed; the fingerlings are far from fresh. The menu has been revised.

FOOD



(overall value rating of our visit: out of a possible 5)

- **CUISINE:** Elegant, French-accented contemporary bistro.
- **PRICES:** \$\$\$\$ (entrees \$17-\$26).
- **HOME RUN:** Tender Braised Beef Short Rib.
- **STRIKEOUT:** Pureed Pumpkin Soup (creamy, thick and sugary).

■ **VEGETARIAN:** The menu always lists at least two meatless entrees.

■ **KIDS' MENU:** Simple buttered noodles on request.

■ **DESSERTS:** Pastry chef Jason Loeb (an extern from the California Culinary Academy) is still learning: Chocolate Mousse (\$8) is dark and dense and delicious; Cinnamon Baked Apple (\$9), an unpeeled hunk of Granny Smith in heavy cheddar-laced pastry, is clunky — but the cinnamon gelato shines.

■ **FREEBIES:** Chewy Italian bread and whole-wheat breadsticks.

■ **BEVERAGES:** Full bar.

■ **CHECK:** \$192.49; three appetizers, four entrees, two desserts, one bottle of wine.

THE WINE LIST

Like its lavishly wrought plate presentations, Montclair Bistro has a wine list that cultivates romanticism on a grand scale. Nearly half the list is devoted to reserve wines, magnums and double magnums, many on consignment from Sai Campagna, the restaurant's wine consultant. Just knowing that a 1949 Chateau Lafite-Rothschild Pailiac (\$2,800) graces the wine room reflects a gilded cachet on the whole place. And, when you're through nudging your companions to point out the luxury bottles (not to mention the splurgey Italians), turn your attention to the list's solid core of California reds. For the price, you couldn't do much better than the spunky, berryish 2003 Seghesio Sonoma Zinfandel, terrific with any of the menu's meat dishes.

— John Birdsall

I wince when someone at my table asks for the filet medium and find some satisfaction when it arrives medium-rare. Have the cooks rebelled (tenderloin's flavor is washed out when it cooks past the point of bloody), or simply goofed? I like to think they rebelled, but in that case, the server should have warned us about what was coming.

A Panko-Crusted Blue Nose Bass (\$24) perches high above a wasabi-laced beurre blanc pebbly with caviar, teetering on layers of rice and bok choy. The fish is firm and chewy as pork cutlet. Tender Braised Beef Short Rib (\$23) is indeed tender: a slab of succulent fibers wrapped in savory cabbage, on a tight nest of noodles, scattered with browned

brussels sprouts. It's delicious, and the meat's rustic personality creates an interesting tension with its suave surroundings.

Vortriede is an experienced and accomplished chef. He says he made a conscious decision to dress the plates in a way he acknowledges is over the top, and in a style he believes matches the elegance of his dining room.

Some critics have complained about all that dressing on the plates. Wouldn't the food be better, they argue, if Vortriede pared them away and let the cooking shine? I think they're wrong. The kitchen stumbles over the basics: the textures of some of the fish and

MONTCLAIR BISTRO

REVIEW VISIT ON FEB. 23

■ **WHERE:** 6118 Medau Place, Oakland.

■ **HOURS:** 5:30-9 p.m. Sundays and Tuesdays-Thursdays; 5:30-9:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Sunday brunch: 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Closed Mondays.

■ **PARKING:** Metered street parking (free after 6 p.m.).

■ **CONTACT:** 510-482-8282; www.montclairbistro.com.

■ **DATE OPENED:** Oct. 16, 2004.

■ **PRINCIPALS:** Henry Vortriede, chef/owner; Ryan Stonefett, chef/kitchen manager.

■ **RESERVATIONS:** Yes.

■ **PRIVATE PARTIES:** For groups up to 200, at the nearby Montclair Women's Club.

■ **NOISE LEVEL:** Subdued.

■ **MOOD:** Soft and genteel — white tablecloths, soft lighting, sponge-painted walls and floral valences. A great place to take your mom on her birthday.

■ **SPECIAL AREA:** Ask to sit in the upper part of the split-level dining room.

■ **SERVICE POINT:** Crisp and professional.

vegetables, the seasoning of the sauces and reductions. And while I'm not crazy about the garnishes (the way I prefer a simple Lotta Jansdotter silk-screen to some baroque Brunswick & Fils print), that kind of judgment is purely subjective.

Vortriede gets that some diners — even within the Bay Area's prim culinary culture — want an experience that's lush and theatrical. Correcting his kitchen's flaws would really give his customers something to gush over.

Reach East Bay food writer John Birdsall at jwbirdsall@earthlink.net.

AUDITIONS

■ **Belasco Theatre Company** — "Guys and Dolls." Boys 12-18. Singers, dancers and actors. 925-550-2703.

■ **Cantabella Children's Chorus** — Opera "Hansel and Gretel." 4-6 p.m. April 4 and 8-8:30 p.m. April 5. Singers and actors in grades 4-12; www.cantabella.org.

■ **Chanticleer Theatre** — "You Can't Take It With You." 7:30 p.m. March 14 and 15. Large cast with many character roles. Gary Wright, 510-304-4124.

■ **Contra Costa Children's Chorus** — Placement interviews are now being scheduled for the 2005 spring semester. Boys and girls ages 6-14. Program includes singing of varied repertoire in several languages, sight-singing instruction and performing. 925-945-7101, Ext. 200.

■ **Diablo Women's Chorus** — Welcoming new members. Rehearsals 7:30 p.m. Mondays for the spring concert. Trinity Lutheran Church, 2317 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek. 925-682-3769.

■ **Girls' Chorus** — Sing a variety of music from popular to classical to jazz. Members will learn sight-reading, musicianship and vocal technique. 3-5 p.m. Fridays. Based in Walnut Creek. 925-370-1695.

■ **Martinez Community Chorus** — Seeking singers of all voice parts for its Winter/Spring term and upcoming spring concert. Rehearsals: 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Martinez Adult School Auditorium, 600 F St. Dee Wood: 925-687-7053.

■ **Oakland Raiders** — Raiderettes audition, 8 a.m. April 10, Hilton Oakland Airport, One Hegenberger Road. Lovely, enthusiastic and talented young women. Preregistration is advised. Deadline for preregistration is April 6. Preregistration fee, \$20; walk-up applicants \$25, cash only. Registration form is available at www.raiderettes.com; 2005 Raiderette Audition Prep Classes, 10 a.m.-noon, March 19, April 2 and 9, McKinley Elementary School, 2150 E. 14th St., San Leandro. \$25 fee per class.

■ **Ohlone College** — Summerfest 2005: "Into the Woods," 10 a.m.-1 p.m. April 16; invite callbacks April 17. Bring picture, resume and 16 bars ballad or 32 bars up-tempo. Reading will be at callbacks. All roles are open to non-union actors. Some paid roles available. Performances: June 30-July 9, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont. 510-659-6207.

■ **Pleasanton Playhouse** — "Macbeth," 7:30 p.m. March 15 and 17. Open auditions. Be prepared to do a cold reading from the script. All roles open. No

appointment necessary. To read full audition notice: www.pleasantonplayhouse.com, 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 307, Pleasanton. 925-462-2121.

■ **STAGE TROUPE** — "A Midsummer Night's Dream," 11 a.m.-2 p.m. April 2 or 9, Winslow Center, 2590 Pleasant Hill Road, at Taylor Boulevard, Pleasant Hill. Students, grades five through college. Prepare a one-minute monologue and be ready to move onstage. Rehearsals April 16-June 4. Performances: June 9-19. Fee, \$99-\$115. 925-682-0896.

■ **Stars 2000 Teen Theatre Company** — "Kiss Me Kate," 6 p.m. March 25, 7 p.m. March 28 and 6-7 p.m. March 29. Callbacks March 29 and April 1. Ages 13-20. Prepare a song in your key. Bring sheet music. Accompanist will be provided. Dress for movement. Bring tap shoes if you tap (not a requirement). Rehearsals begin mid-June. Performances: July 30-Aug. 8. Appointment only. 925-944-0900, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

■ **Valley Concert Chorus** — March 14 and 21 in Livermore. Experienced choral singers who enjoy performing a wide range of music from classical to contemporary. Rehearsals Monday evenings. Appointments: 925-462-4205, www.valleyconcertchorus.org.

■ **Valley Shakespeare Festival** — Teens in acting, production/design, marketing and administration internships and volunteerism. VSF qualifies for community service requirements. To audition for summer acting internships or talk with the director about year-round opportunities, call Lisa Trovitch, 925-249-0942.

■ **Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble** — Auditions for spring season. The 24-voice group mostly sings classical music from a wide variety of historical periods. The audition consists of ear-training, sight-singing and the performance of a prepared solo piece. To schedule an audition, contact Jude Navari, 415-425-8706.

■ **Walnut Creek Concert Band** — Musicians wanted, particularly adult trumpet, cornet and percussionists. Rehearsals 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays in Walnut Creek. WalnutCreekBand.org. 925-284-1583.

■ **Woodminster Summer Musicals** 2005 — Singing auditions March 12 and 13. Prepare 32 bars each of two songs, bring music with you. Accompanist will be provided. Dance auditions will follow in April. AEA members come to open call or send resumes to: Woodminster Amphitheatre, 3300 Joaquin Miller Road, Oakland, CA 94602. 510-531-9597.



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Arts & Leisure

Friday, March 11, 2005



J.B. ALDERMAN
On DVDs

DVDs can ease long road trip

SPRING BREAK will soon be here and if you are one of the many families that now make heavy use of portable or in-vehicle DVD players when traveling, add these discs to the packing list for your next trip.

'Introducing Pingu'

Pingu is a young penguin who lives with his family at the South Pole. Done in a claymation style of animation, the characters in Pingu speak a made up language that sounds vaguely like Esperanto. This collection of Pingu short features are funny, clever and packed with "good guys win" lessons. Unlike many DVDs that are marketed at young kids but have mature themes, Pingu is suitable for the youngest viewers. Five-year old Daniel pronounced this Pingu disc "fun," which is high praise. Parents will also enjoy watching Pingu and won't cringe with fear when their child asks to watch it again and again. (Not rated.) 1 hour and 20 minutes.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):

Overall: 3 stars

Kids: 3 1/2 stars

Teens: 1 star

Adults: 2 1/2 stars

Seniors: 2 1/2 stars

Should you rent it? Yes — sweet, funny and perfect for pre-K kids.

'Shark Tale'

Backed by the voices of several Hollywood A-list stars, "Shark Tale" is an entertaining animated yarn that melds "The Godfather" with "Finding Nemo." Will Smith stars as a small fish who dreams of making it big and winds up battling mafia-like sharks (led by Robert De Niro) that control the coral reef. My 5-year-old son, Daniel, said the film was "great!" (and it kept him content on a recent five-hour road trip) but the "Sopranos" overtones and constant talk of "whacking" make it more appropriate for kids 7 and older. Grandparents aren't likely to get the overstuffed supply of pop-culture references, but parents and some teens will find them amusing. (PG: mild language). 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):

Overall: 2 1/2 stars

Kids: 3 stars

Teens: 2 stars

Adults: 2 stars

Seniors: 1 1/2 stars

Should you rent it? Yes — a good choice for a long car trip.

'The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie'

As a TV series, "SpongeBob SquarePants" is fabulous and the ubiquitous yellow cartoon sea-dweller is endearing. As a full-length movie, it's about as appealing as day-old sushi — at least for discerning parents. Perhaps feeling free from the constricting net of cable television, the filmmakers decided to let their gills down. The result is that the film is dripping with unnecessary fish-on-fish violence. This makes the SpongeBob movie best for kids who are at least 7. Your second-grader will still love the film and you're likely to get a chuckle or two as well, but rent and don't be tempted to buy it — one viewing is plenty. (PG: cartoon violence and mild crude humor). 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):

Overall: 2 stars

Kids: 2 1/2 stars

Teens: 1 1/2 stars

Adults: 2 stars

Seniors: 1 1/2 stars

Should you rent it? Yes — but only if your kid is old enough for lots of cartoon violence.

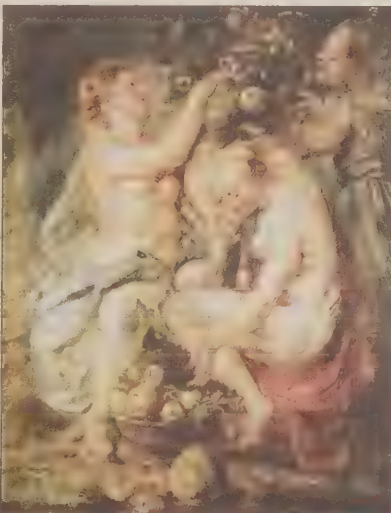
J.B. Alderman lives in Berkeley and can be reached at JasonBA@yahoo.com.



"THE LAST SUPPER" (1620-21) gains drama from its vivid color and foreshortened perspective, meant to be seen from below.

A sense of Rubens

Sketch show gives an intimate look



"THREE NYMPHS with a Cornucopia," above, is luminous with pearly flesh tones. "Head of a Negro," right, never became part of a large-scale painting.

By Robert Taylor
STAFF WRITER

NO ARTIST GAVE the Baroque era of 17th century Europe a more human touch than Peter Paul Rubens. His grandiose paintings were filled with life and passion, flesh and blood, and those ladies whose softly rounded bodies became known as "Rubenesque."

A wall-to-wall collection of his big Flemish paintings can be overwhelming. At New York's Metropolitan Museum recently, I was lost in a dizzying riot of colorful figures, from a terrifying fox hunt to Venus and Adonis to "The Holy Family with St. Francis and Anne and the Infant St. John the Baptist."

Rubens' flamboyant style makes some art authorities roll their eyes, and the word "baroque" has often defined the overblown and grotesque. To make Rubens more difficult to assess, many of his paintings were completed by his workshop full of artists — among them Anthony van Dyck, who would become the next Flemish master.

See RUBENS, Page C9



EXHIBIT

■ **WHAT:** "Drawn by the Brush: Oil Sketches by Peter Paul Rubens"

■ **WHERE:** UC Berkeley Art Museum, 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley

■ **WHEN:** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursdays through May 15

■ **HOW MUCH:** \$10 general, \$5 students, ages 12-17, seniors and disabled persons

■ **CONTACT:** 510-642-0808, www.bampfa.berkeley.edu

■ **EVENTS:** Discussion of "The Road to Calvary," the Rubens oil sketch in the museum's own collection, noon March 16; lecture by Rubens authority Svetlana Alpers "Painting Out of Conflict: Velasquez, Rubens and the Dutch in Time of War," 3 p.m. April 3

Online

See more of Peter Paul Rubens' work at www.ContraCostaTimes.com

Montclair Bistro's fare has theatrical flare

By John Birdsall
CORRESPONDENT

In an essay titled "Alice Doesn't Cook Here Anymore," New York restaurant critic Alan Richman finds the spare, conceptually pristine cooking of Berkeley's Chez Panisse as wilted as leftover mesclun salad wrapped up in last night's doggie bag.

Richman chides celebrated restaurateurs such as Chez Panisse's Alice Waters for being conspicuously absent from their dining rooms. Along the way, he flings truffled demi-glace on Waters' doctrine of radical purity: "Perhaps if we went to restaurants to sustain ourselves nutritionally ... Chez Panisse might then be thought of as the finest restaurant in America. But that isn't why we dine out. We go for a breathtaking experience, much as we go to the theater, to be part of something spectacular."

Look down one night, in the softly lit, extravagantly sponge-painted cocoon of Oakland's



CHEF/OWNER Henry Vortriede finds time to work the kitchen and the dining room at Montclair Bistro.

See BISTRO, Page C9

Take a chance at the theater

THREE POWERFUL MAS now plays Bay stages — due to open April 1 — a brilliant constellation of some money-watching productions about communism. To wit (and not so much):

They are run by a timid old fogies so an intellectually challenging trial will offend some interested only in a fed artistic pabulum. Bosh. Balderdash. combe.

It would be hard to more intellectually than those plays above:

"Buried Child," Gardner's troubling, provocative story of a family mine over the secret burial of a wanted child. (Contra Costa Civic Theatre)

"Enemy Combatant," Graves' chilling and look at America's war to extract military justice. (Berkeley City Club)

"The Just" by Albert a superb rendition by Players of the conflicts states and moral perils a band of bomb-tossing, based on an action during the Revolution of 1905.

"Proof," David 2001 Pulitzer and winner, opening April Point Richmond's Playhouse, explores a complex dilemma of a mother as she takes care of a sane mathematical father amid a web of valries, distrust and

Earlier, Pinole County Players did "Cabaret," exposing the decadence of nascent Nazism in

With these current offerings as a how did community get tagged with that fogey image?

It's not the fault of who run theater that the very nature of the newest movement, they are more reactions in theater audiences. But they also their audiences.

For many patrons, after, unlike the most, scarcely acknowledge experience. It's close, too real. By coming big screen and the talk with images, not real blood a few yards

Curiously, this may some younger people. Adolescence and hood are full of the national tussles, on stage can be

People are also comfortable with the why old hit musicals back year after year. With comedy. Neil some brash newswoman might embarrass an edgy comment on a

Comedy also vious inclination of to laugh at anything frequently at the Weir. But it's an unease.

Theaters will always comfortable, old-school. It helps pay the there appears to be a — and overdue — take chances. This attract and hold they become accounts ting-edge fare. It's boring, bored (or to do the oldies. leap at chances to selves with challenge material and insight.

The theater with this scenario: producers will fill the support the production won't work as well with only the arm. the heavy hauling theatrical inertia summer must create and keep it moving upward

Reach Jack Tucker at tucker@times.com 262-2768.

Friday Auto Plus

cars.com

Friday supplement to The Montclair, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, March 11, 2005

Section D

Hyundai Tucson GLS is a four-wheel drive loaded with features for a low price

BY JON ROSNER
SECTION EDITOR

I'll admit it — I cheated. I don't look at the Mul-ti until after I have spent my time driving the vehicle. But this was unusual and somewhat surprising to me. Most multi-utility vehicles are attached to the rear window and show off their basic features and the price paid for the vehicle. The word "in" was included again and it took all the space options are usually listed. I had a V6, 4-speed automatic disc brakes, power windows, CD player and a hair under the hood. Did I cut the Tucson any slack? No.

The interior is nice and sports seats with nice fit and finish.

The interior has some attractive touches like the nickel-color metal frame that hugs the edge of the console. The Eisenhower dollar-sized dials that control the heat and air conditioning made changing settings something that required little attention, and the t-bar shifter required a comfortable bend of the elbow to reach.

Sitting up high on the seat with the typical SUV over-the-road point-of-view with hands covering the full-bodied steering wheel made the Tucson easy to drive. Acceleration from a stop sign was progressive. The engine growl was not as refined as on some of its Japanese competitors, but the power came on smoothly without any of the abruptness that has marked a few SUVs that brought on power a little too abruptly. There was a twinge of body sway as I took the quick right into flowing traffic. We blew through pot-holes and hardly felt them. But the flip side of this was that there was little feel for the road

THROUGH THE GEARS

through the steering wheel.

The twinge of sway and lack of feeling through the wheel would normally be a warning that swift left-right-left accident avoidance emergency maneuvers would not be looked upon favorably by the Tucson.

But this puppy has a trick up its sleeve. A number of years ago Lexus started adding stability control to some of their high-line SUVs. It looked like a good idea, and a few other manufacturers offered it, too. Electronic Stability Control is called StabiliTrak by GM, and half of the other makers also put a special name on it. What it does is help you brake and steer at the same time. Yes, anti-lock brakes help with this process.

But ESC is different. ESC is composed of gyroscopes and a computer attached to ABS. Let's



2005 HYUNDAI TUCSON is a well-designed and comfortable SUV that offers Electronic Stability Control as a standard feature.

say you are driving in the rain going at a good pace and have to suddenly shift directions to avoid an accident. Slamming on the ABS shifts the weight of the vehicle that results in changes in downward force on the tires and affects tire adhesion to the road. Even with ABS you can still end up traveling in a straight line from the point you hit the brakes. Enter ESC, gyroscopes and steering inputs tell the com-

puter where you actually want to go. And instead of applying the brakes and power evenly the computer adds and subtracts line pressure to each wheel in order to slow it down, but now the SUV has a much better chance of going in the direction you want it to go in.

Does it work? Yes. Objectively designed and completed studies showed that ESC is as significant as driver's side air-bag and anti-lock

brakes for real-world usefulness and effectiveness. Bottom line is that this is a technology that can and might save you. It's a freebie on the Tucson.

By the way, the seats were comfortable, the build quality and braking and handling were all solid and satisfying. The Hyundai Tucson offers a lot of standard features and value in a small to mid-size SUV for a very competitive price.

Down to wire for electric car's fans

ANA BARTHOLOMEW
LOS ANGELES

BURBANK - After Chris Gibson caught a look at the EV1, he did nearly anything but electric sports car of the future. He'd do nearly anything but electric sports car of the future.

One of dozens of electric sports cars to stand vigil for 10 days hoping to save the last General Motors fleet - 77 California and roughly twice as many in New York - from the GM turned him down.

For the more than 800 former lessees of the pioneering electric vehicle from GM, they're now a club without a car.

General Motors years ahead of a California mandate to produce zero-emission cars, the EV1 turned heads. By 1999, GM built more than 1,000 EV1s, of which it leased 800 for between \$300 and \$600 a month before finally pulling the plug on its electric car program in 2003.

All Reeves and other EV1 enthusiasts say they want is a chance to buy their former wheels back for \$25,000 each - free of strings from the factory. And for GM to recharge its electric car program. On Saturday, the group will hold a Burbank rally to include such celebrities as

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See GM EV1, Page 2

HYUNDAI TUCSON GLS

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Vehicle Type | Five-passenger four-wheel drive SUV |
| Suggested Retail | \$19,999 |
| Price as Tested | \$19,999 |
| Engine Type | DOHC 24-valve, 2.7-liter V6 w/MPFI |
| Horsepower | 173 at 6,000 rpm |
| Torque | 178 at 4,000 rpm |
| Transmission | Four-speed automatic |
| Wheelbase | 104 inches |
| Height | 66 inches |
| Curb Weight | 3,548 pounds |
| Fuel Capacity | 15 gallons |
| Mileage | City/highway 20/26 |

INSIDE

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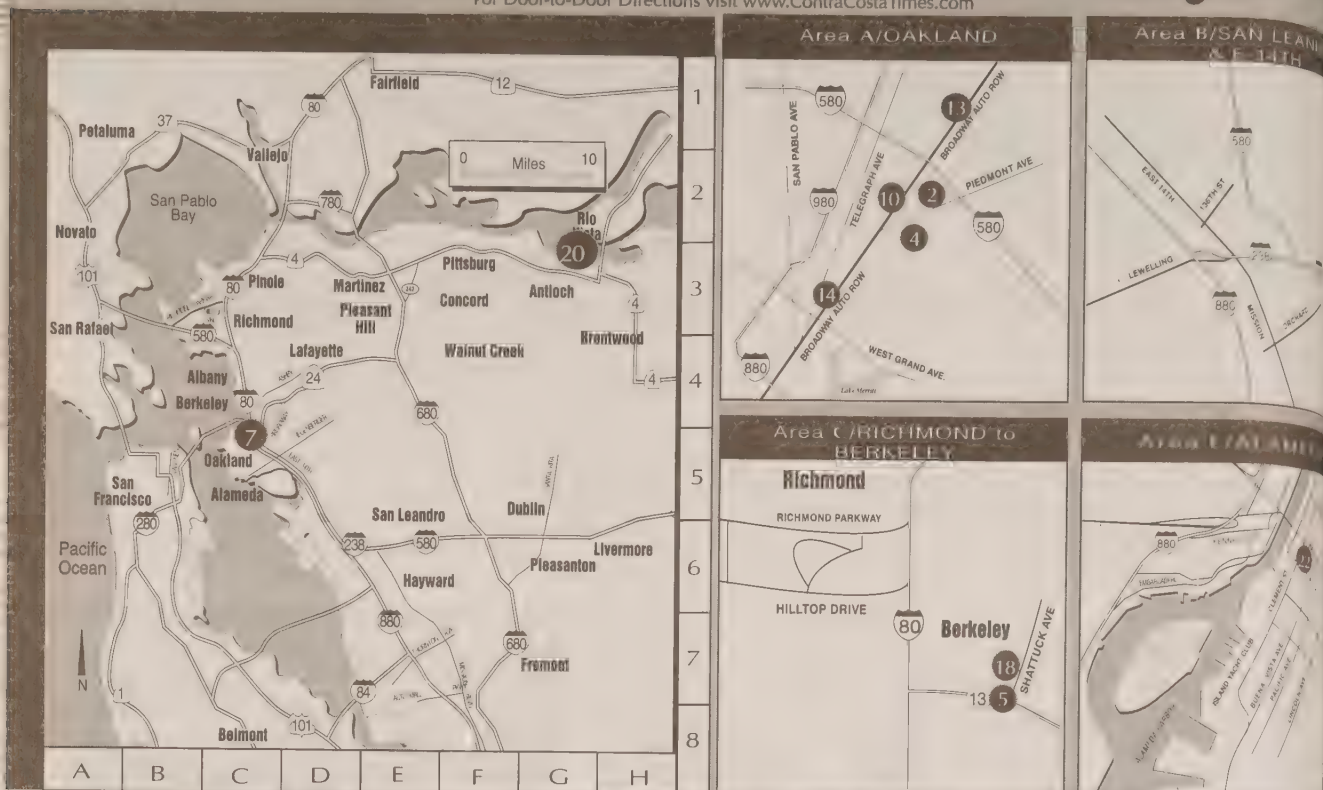
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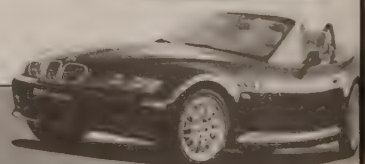
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With the tremendous success of the Cadillac CTS-V GM is back into performance

DOWN THE ROAD

BY HERB SHULDINER
MOTOR MATTERS

General Motors is striving to develop more halo vehicles in a strong effort to put passion back into its products and curtail the use of incentives to move its cars. In the auto business, a halo vehicle is an icon — one that radiantly stands out in the lineup — much like the Corvette is a halo vehicle for Chevrolet. Mark Reuss, vice president of performance vehicles, says his aim is to create at least one performance halo vehicle for every GM division.

Most of all, Reuss wants to achieve performance leadership over BMW and other German car brands that are generally recognized as the best performing cars in the world. "We want to lead. We want to copy the imports," Reuss says. "I don't want parity with Mercedes AMG and BMW M Series vehicles. I want to beat them, because I never want to be in a position of having to explain why my car is as good."

He concedes that GM is not competitive with those brands yet,

but promises the new Cadillac STS-V and XLR-V coming later this year will outperform the best that Germany has to offer.

Reuss notes that the Cadillac CTS-V already outperforms the BMW M3 and the Mercedes C-Class AMG, but adds that GM's performance-vehicle strategy will differ markedly from Mercedes. The German carmaker offers an AMG version of every model, except the M-Class SUV. BMW currently offers the M3, a more powerful version of its 3 Series line. An M5 is due later this year and an M6 will follow. There are no M Series models for BMW's cross/utility vehicles or its flagship 7 Series.

Reuss says that the CTS-V already has helped make Cadillac a cool brand again. Buyers of this high-performance vehicle earn an average income of \$209,000, about \$100,000 more than other Cadillac owners. They also are a decade younger than the average Cadillac buyer and Reuss says 38 percent of CTS-V buyers have come out of a German import.

GM's halo vehicles include the Chevrolet SSR, Cobalt SS Supercharged and TrailBlazer SS. Reuss is particularly happy with the Cobalt SS Supercharged because it will



2005 CADILLAC STS-V is the second Cadillac to get the high performance treatment. Proving that GM really does know how to build cars that can truly perform at the same levels as the top European brands.

cost only about \$21,000 and appeal to the tuner market. He would like to do a performance version of the Chevy Colorado pickup. "I could put a V8 (engine) in that," he says

with his eyes gleaming.

Reuss also would like to create a performance coupe for Chevrolet, but cautions that this doesn't mean the Camaro will return. However, it's clear that Chevrolet needs an exciting performer that can compete with the Ford Mustang.

Also on Reuss' performance priority list is the Cadillac SRX-V cross/utility and a Redline version of the upcoming Saturn Sky roadster. Reuss says he would also like to do a performance version of the Pontiac Solstice and a car for Buick, so that each of those two brands would have at least one halo model. However, Reuss says that there are no plans at this time to produce a performance model for GMC. "I'm not sure they need anything that goes faster," he says.

Does the coming era of high fuel economy emphasis portend the end of performance vehicles? Not in Reuss' view. He envisions doing performance versions of hybrids and even fuel-cell vehicles. Reuss says, "We don't have a current plan to set a land speed record on the Bonneville Flats for a fuel-cell vehicle. Preliminary discussions with Larry Burns, vice president-research & development and planning, about doing that in the future have taken place."

GM's high-performance division has 1,000 employees. "We are going with our youngest and brightest engineers," Reuss says. All performance-vehicle programs, except Corvette, are under his control.

GM's performance division produced 225,000 vehicles last year, but Reuss says that future growth will be market driven. Gross income from his performance vehicles is almost \$1 billion annually, he says. Best of all, the halo vehicles sell without incentives that eat into profits.

Virtually all sell at full manufacturer's suggested retail prices and some dealers have charged over sticker for certain models. That's a refreshing situation for GM's bean counters who see profits trickling away with the highest incentives in the history of the automotive industry.

Reuss, whose father once was president of GM, is obviously very excited about performance, but he suggests there might be a limit on how much horsepower you can put into an engine. "You can't get it all to the ground," he says. "A winning car is not dependent on horsepower."

2006 Infiniti M boasts high tech features

DOWN THE ROAD

BY DAVE VAN SICKLE
MOTOR MATTERS

Introduced back in 2002, the Infiniti M was conceived to fill the gap between the sporty G35 and luxurious Q45. The all-new M, scheduled for sale in late February as a 2006 model, continues to capture the essential elements of the Q45 and G35. As such, the M ensures a full lineup of luxury performance sedans.

The Infiniti M utilizes an enhanced next generation FM (Front Suspension) platform currently used in the G35 sedan, G35 coupe and FX crossover SUV. Approximately 60 percent of the platform components have been upgraded for use with the new M. Like the previous generation, the new, redefined FM platform positions the engine behind the axle for a 54/46 front-to-rear weight distribution.

The 2006 M is available with either a V8 or V6 engine, designated M35 AWD model features Infiniti's ATTESA E-TS (Advanced Traction Engineering System for Electronic Torque Split) all-wheel drive system. Originally developed for the exotic Skyline GT-R sports coupe, it's the same system used in the Infiniti FX45 and FX35 AWD crossover SUVs and G35x AWD

sedan. Optimum torque is automatically transferred to the wheels according to road and driving conditions. Front to rear torque distribution can vary anywhere from 0:100 to 50:50. It also provides high starting traction performance and smooth, stable acceleration, especially in snow-covered or off-road situations with the driver-selectable Auto/Lock AWD mode for maximum traction.

Handling and stability are enhanced by Infiniti's new Rear Active Steering system. This system helps improve the M Sport's performance by using precise, electronic motor driven adjustments to the geometry of the rear suspension. The system's electronic control unit calculates the desired vehicle dynamics from a series of sensors, including speed and steering angle, and directs the system actuator to change rear geometry by moving both rear suspension lower links. The result is a pleasant combination of agility and control.

The newly developed Lane Departure Warning alerts drivers to any unintended movement out of a designated traffic lane. It recognizes lane markings with a small camera mounted behind the rearview mirror. The camera's signal and vehicle speed are sent to a microprocessor, which calculates both the distance between the vehicle and the lane marking and how quickly it is moving toward the lane marking. A judgment is then made about warning the driver when the vehicle is moving out of the lane. The LDW system is temporarily disabled by use of turn signals, which informs the system's control unit of intended lane changes.

Infiniti's Intelligent Cruise Control system allows the driver to maintain an appropriate distance from the car ahead. Using a combination of laser sensors, throttle and brake actuators, a laser signal measures the dis-

tance to the car ahead, then automatically adjusts vehicle speed to maintain a pre-selected gap. The system is not intended for congested areas or city driving and will not brake automatically to a stop.

Building on the benefits of xenon lighting, Infiniti's advanced headlight system adjusts lighting patterns of the headlamp automatically according to steering angle and vehicle speed. The headlights can also be adjusted up or down (four settings with a range of up to 1.93 degrees) through use of a switch mounted on the instrument panel. This helps provide enhanced nighttime visibility, especially on hilly or winding roads.

And since a view of what is behind is also important, the M's Rear-View monitor is available to help. When reverse gear is selected, a small CCD camera mounted near the rear license plate projects a color image onto the LCD display in the instrument panel. This feature helps give the driver a good picture of what's behind the vehicle, making it easier to operate in reverse.

The interior also offers an array of driver and passenger-oriented technology features, including the Infiniti Intelligent Key system with push button ignition. This system eliminates the need to take the key fob out of your pocket when locking and unlocking the car, accessing the trunk or starting the engine. The Infiniti DVD-based Navigation System has a new user interface featuring voice-activated destination entry, as well as HVAC and audio control. Standard features include Bluetooth wireless technology and an in-dash six-disc changer with MP3 playback capability.

But for the ultimate in luxury, there's the Climate Controlled Front Seats that both cool and heat front seat occupants, as desired, through an active temperature management system.

Chevy Impala gets powered up with a V8

BY G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

For the first time since the mid-'90s, a Chevrolet bearing the Impala name will be getting a V8 engine.

And for that matter, the Monte Carlo, which last had a V8 a long time ago, maybe in the '70s, also will be getting one.

At the recent Greater Los Angeles Auto Show, General Motors North America President Gary Cowger and GM Vice Chairman Robert Lutz introduced the redesigned 2006 Impala and Monte Carlo to automotive journalists during a media preview.

The Impala name goes back to 1958, when Chevy introduced it as the top-of-the-line version of its full-size sedan, which that year featured rounded front and rear fenders (a year before the introduction of the radical rear fender wings on the 1959 models). Monte Carlo was introduced in 1970 as a midsize sport coupe model and became a darling of NASCAR racing.

Both went away in the mid-'80s after some radical redesign and downsizing. The Impala name was briefly resurrected in the mid-'90s for a special Impala SS version of the long-running full-size rear-drive Chevy Caprice, built at the GM plant in Arlington, Texas. That car, along with the rest of the Caprice and Buick Roadmaster wagon lines, was discontinued after the 1996 model year, along with V8 engines in Chevy sedans. (You could still get one in the Corvette and Camaro, of course.)

For 2000, GM revived the Impala name on a new larger-than-midsize sedan with front-wheel drive and V6 power, and a year later added a two-door version of this model to the lineup, bringing back the Monte Carlo name. The current Impala, which has undergone evolutionary changes but no major makeovers since its introduction, has been a good seller for GM, tallying more than a million sales since introduction. Coupes don't sell that well these days, but even so, the Monte Carlo has been a success, GM says, probably based on a combi-

nation of its edgy styling and retro name.

Chevy introduced SS (Super Sport) models of both of these front-drive cars last year, with some sporty styling cues and a supercharged version of the Impala and Monte Carlo's 3.8-liter V6 engine. What was missing, of course, was a V8, even a normally aspirated one.

It seemed almost criminal to roll out SuperSport cars with V6 engines, and the 240-horsepower of the supercharged V6 is less than that of the normally aspirated V8 engines in some Japanese midsize sedans, such as the 260-horsepower Nissan Maxima, 270-horsepower Acura TL and 275-horsepower Infiniti G35, for instance.

With its \$28,425 price tag, the 2005 Impala SS has, besides the supercharged engine, upgraded audio, tires, cast-aluminum wheels, leather sport bucket seats and oil pressure gauge and a supercharged performance-equipment package (boost gauge, performance suspension, unique rear spoiler and dual exhaust). The '05 Monte Carlo SS, at \$28,225, has pretty much the same upgrades. But for 2006, we will see the return of the small-block V8 to these nameplates. The engine in the Impala SS and Monte Carlo SS will be the new LS4 5.3-liter V8 with "displacement on demand" technology that cuts out four of the cylinders at highway speeds to help raise fuel economy by up to 12 percent.

This engine will be rated at 303 horsepower and 323 foot pounds of torque. It will be normally aspirated, but perhaps an aftermarket supercharger kit will be available — maybe already is, since this is a version of an engine that has been around at GM for a long time and is used in similar form in other vehicles including the midsize GM sport utilities.

Why put a V8 in these cars at this time? My theory on that is simple: because DaimlerChrysler came out with the 5.7-liter Hemi V8 engine in the new Chrysler 300 sedan and Dodge Magnum wagon last

year and this year will roll out a new Dodge Charger, a sedan version of the Magnum, with the same engine. Those cars also have the displacement-on-demand setup.

One big difference between the Chevy models and the Chrysler and Dodge vehicles: The Impala and Monte Carlo still have front-wheel drive, while the Chrysler and Dodge products are built on rear-drive platforms. GM says the V8 models are expected to compete in the "hotly contested midcar segment" that includes those Chrysler division vehicles.

Among the features: In the Impala, there will be a new flip-and-fold rear seat, and both cars will get revised suspension systems designed to provide a good mix of ride comfort and deft road handling, always a hard goal to achieve. Safety features will include antilock brakes and traction control on both cars; Impalas will get side-curtain roof air bags, and seat-mounted side air bags will be optional on the Monte Carlo SS.

Besides the V8 in the performance models, the rest of the line will get new V6 engines, GM says.

The base engine in the Impala and Monte Carlo will be a 3.5-liter rated at 210 horsepower and 220 foot pounds of torque, replacing the current 3.4-liter V6 that turns out 180 horsepower and 205 foot pounds of torque.

Next will be a new 3.9-liter V6 built on the same architecture as the 3.5-liter engine, the company says. It will be standard in midlevel models and will produce 240 horsepower and 245 foot pounds of torque — about the same as the current supercharged V6, but normally aspirated.

The Impala and Monte Carlo will be built at GM's Oshawa No. 1 plant in Ontario, Canada, which has undergone more than \$350 million in upgrades to produce these new models, GM says. They will go on sale in late summer.

Go north to Alaska for a great adventure

ROLLING HOMES

BY JEFF JOHNSTON
MOTOR MATTERS

Alaska! The mere mention of the place can get an adventurous traveler's blood flowing a bit faster. Experiencing Alaska is a great pastime, and driving there from the lower 48 is one of the last great RV adventures.

Although much of the country is buried in winter's icy grasp, now is the time when many RVers start planning their Alaska getaways. It won't be long before spring arrives and Alaska wanderlust burns bright in an RVer's heart.

Fortunately, you need not be a grizzled adventurer with professional mechanic skills and a navigator's sense of direction to go to Alaska. Almost anyone can go and thoroughly enjoy the adventure.

The first step is to buy the latest issue of The Milepost (www.themilepost.com). The Milepost/Morris Communications Company LLC, 100 Broad St., Augusta, Ga., 30901, (706-726-4707), which is the absolute must-have book for north country travelers. The Milepost has recently detailed mile-by-mile descriptions of natural features, road conditions and every possible type of service or supply available to an RV traveler. Until you peruse this book, you won't really grasp how valuable an Alaska traveler.

Another valuable map to have is the DeLorme Alaska edition of the terrific Atlas & Gazetteer book series (www.delorme.com; 800/561-5105).

Between these two books, you can find your way anywhere in Alaska, and also locate what's there to see.

The Trailer Life campground directory (www.tlDirectory.com; 800/234-3450) includes a large section on campgrounds and related RV facilities in Alaska. It's also a handy item to have along.

There are almost as many urban legends about driving to Alaska, as there are ways to enjoy the trip. The early history of the highway gave rise to many of those legends, such as the notion of carrying along two or three spare tires, adding protective screen to one's windshield, and carrying many gallons of extra fuel to make it between stations. Those ideas don't apply anymore, although an unprepared motorist can always find a way to get into trouble by being foolish enough.

The suggestions listed apply to travel on the main highway. Once the adventurer takes a side route to less-well-known areas, the level of preparedness goes up in relation to the ruggedness of the highway.

Basic vehicle preparation, the type that's used before medium- or long-distance trips in the lower 48 states, will also get you to Alaska. All expendable items, such as tires, windshield wipers, shock absorbers, batteries and the like should be in good condition. The same applies to all engine belts, hoses and similar items.

The entire Alaska Highway has been paved, but it's always under reconstruction and repair. Be prepared to encounter many miles of gravel. As long as you slow down appropriately in the gravel areas, you should have no problems with excess flat tires. Slowing down, and

not following too closely, also helps avoid windshield and headlight damage, due to rocks being kicked up by other drivers.

While fuel is readily available, it makes sense to top off your tank more often than in the lower 48. Once I reach 1/2 tank, I start looking for a station. The next fuel stop may be 100 miles away, so stop when you can to avoid running out. Driving late at night may change this, as not all stations are open 24 hours.

Carry a fairly complete first-aid kit. When you're 75 miles from the nearest town, you're also 75 miles from the nearest hospital, and most accidents are serviced by ambulances, not rescue helicopter flights. Figure how long it would take the ambulance to reach you, and double back. Be prepared.

Most fuel stops in remote regions of the Yukon Territory are like small self-contained cities. They typically include gas and diesel, a service station or mechanic, a restaurant, bar, laundromat, maybe a video arcade, an RV park and other conveniences. The next such location may be 100 miles or more up the road, and similarly equipped.

Cellphone service is spotty along the highway, so place calls when you're closer to civilization. You may do well to take along a few prepaid phone cards, if you should need to place a call from a remote location without wireless service. The upshot of all this is that you can drive about anything you want to Alaska, and an RV is a natural fit for an adventure along the most exciting and inspiring drive in north America. Once you try it, you'll want to go back again and again.

SPARE PARTS MOTOR MATTERS

AND THE WINNER IS: Forty eight international automotive journalists, representing 16 countries, have recognized the progressive, sporty Audi A6 as the Best Car in the World this year. The selection was made from a list of 36 new vehicles available for purchase, prior to Jan. 1, 2005, in at least five countries, on at least two continents. The jury used 23 separate parameters, including acceleration, braking, vehicle dynamics, safety features, cargo and off-road capabilities before making their decision.

WHAT IS ESC? Electronic Stability Control uses the speed sensors on each wheel and the ability to brake individual wheels that are the basis of anti-lock brakes. ESC adds a steering angle sensor, a vehicle rotation around the vehicle's vertical axis, and a control unit.

The control unit monitors when the steering and rotation sensors detect that the vehicle is about to travel in a direction different from the one indicated by the steering wheel position. Then ESC automatically brakes the appropriate wheel to help the driver maintain control. Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

FRESH IDEAS: With so many high-quality and technology-laden vehicles flooding the market, automakers are now relying on style to attract customers, according to the Detroit News. For that reason, manufacturers are searching for talented young designers in Michigan and southern California, and offering the fresh out of school candidates annual starting salaries of up to \$80,000, plus signing bonuses of \$6,000 to \$10,000.

TEST-DRIVES SELL: Car dealers have always used test-drives as a means to give prospective

customers a chance to become better acquainted with a vehicle. Stu Smith, launch manager for Ford Motor Co., says "I've seen guys try the new Mustang and you have to see the look on their faces when they get out of the car. No commercial can do that." General Motors Corp. has four test centers at the El Toro air base, giving more than 10,000 invited consumers a chance to drive practically every car in GM's sprawling product line.

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04/03

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WANTED: Investor, All Areas. Call Nick 925-476-3599

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180 1 month free rent Large, lovely unit w/ updated kit/ba, w/rt, frs, appls, 500, 510-499-1092

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180 + sm. off. Gar New cpt/appls, no pet, yard \$800 510-521-762

180/18A lower unit, h/wd, frs, new paint, large, 1000 sq ft, 510-521-3158

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Livermore Apartments

SOUTHSIDE 1bd/1ba gar, \$500 + dep. Call Rebecca 925-495-9627
STUDIO Charming So. \$775, 1000 sq ft, 5A sur ng 925-495-9627

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Rodeo Homes

280/2BA, 1900 sf. 3 car garage. \$1350. 510-620-7031

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San Pablo Homes

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San Ramon Homes

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Walnut Creek Homes

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HOME AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY

NOTICE: Businesses and individuals offering construction related services with a cost of \$500 or more are required to possess a California State Contractor's License. For further information contact the California State Contractor's Licensing Board at 1-800-321-2752

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REACHING OVER 190,000 HOMES



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Alameda

1994 ISLAND DR.
SUN 10-3
New and Used merchandise, linens, bedding, glassware, pictures, clothes, toys, and ends and more.

2432 BERNIA VISTA
SAT/SUN 9:30-5:30
Raiders jerseys, tools, garden & hshld items, comics, toys, xmas stuff, movies, books, gumball machine, kids bar seats, old a/s posters, 100's of items

ALAMEDA ESTATE SALE

SOMETHING TO SELL ABOUT
SAT/SUN 9:30-4

Europe's old markets: Portobello Road and Bernersley in London, Portofino in Rome, El Rastro in Madrid and Le Marché aux Puces in Paris, have been enticing collectors for years. In the Bay Area, SOMETHING TO SELL ABOUT monthly showroom sales fulfill that same need. This month's Farewell to Winter sale will delight the collector's eye.

Truly something for everyone, your space is cram packed with wonderful finds. Come to check out the enormous quality antique buried mammoth secretary, 18th cent. Korean tansu, gilt armchairs and day bed, needlepoint arm chairs, antique iron single day bed, inlaid dresser, w/mormola Victorian furniture, amoire, grand piano, Persian rug, original oils, prints, woodblocks, 12 antique Tibetan lanterns, vintage costume and estate jewelry, 150 antique stained glass windows, pews, clocks, books, ethnic arts, china, silver, sterling flatware, crystal, pottery, mirrors, accessories and more!!!

1828 Park St.
(at Clement Street, just over the
Perry Street Bridge)
somethingtosellabout.com

ESTATE SALE

1140 VERDEMAR DR.
SAT. 9-2

35yrs Accumulations
Furniture, hshld. misc., collectibles, albums, books, and more.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY 9-4

1305 10th STREET
MULTI-FAMILY

SPRING & BOUTIQUE

Sleeper sofa, modern accent tble, kitchenware, officeware, pet supplies, jewelry, electronics, guitar amp, police scanner, computers/printers, women's/men's clothes, sporting o/s (golf), health supplements, many unusual goodies you'll wonder how you ever went without.

GARAGE SALE!!!!

1639 EAGLE AVE.
(Arround Back)

Lots of Great Stuff

GIANT CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

NEXT SAT. MARCH 19
9:00AM-1:00PM

100's of items & more
ALAMEDA CHRC

INSIDE/OUTSIDE SALE

Antiques, clothing, misc
SAT/SUN 9-4

Firewood, lawn mowers, clothes, truck tool box, applis, dishes, lots of do-dads & more

STEPH & DREW'S First

of the season sale

Hundreds of Franklin Mint collector's plates (MIE) mostly \$5 each. Garden furn, vintage metal desk, furniture, and knick-knacks, 50's pink washer, drier, bench, cassette decks, reel-to-reel player/tapes, 8 track player, tapes, clothes, lots of scissors and more.

2322 ENCINAL

SATURDAY 9-3

Alamo

MAJOR MOVING SALE

Everything goes. No Early Birds Please. Antiques, kit. set, lthr sofa/chr., toys, treadmill, rugs & more 41 So. Via Lucia Ln Sat. 3/12: 9-2pm

Antioch

ESTATE SALE, 9-2

Thurs & Fri 3/10-11 9-3 Refrid., w/d, stov, couch, lots of good stuff, jewelry, appli, clothes 10-16, xmas dec cor 925-778-3257

MOVING

SAT 3/12: 8-5 2935 Rio Grande Dr End ths, coffee tble, entertainment center, kit, tble, chrs, rocker, child's desk, weight set, & misc. hshld.

CLASSIFIED = RESULTS

Alameda

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Job Board
In The East Bay**
careerbuilder.com

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CLASSIFIED = RESULTS

Antioch

MOVING SOON
1222 Simmons St
Sat 9-4, Sun 9-3
Frid 9-4, Sun 9-3
Furniture, stereo cabinet, TV, large size clothing, toys, misc.

SAT 3/12, 7-7
2312 McInley Ave
(off Dryad/Eve)
Gym equipment, knick-knacks, home furnishings, clothes, & misc. good stuff!

SAT-SUN 8-1
2849 Palo Verde Way
(off Mission)
Lots of various items, clothes, crib, toys, kitchen items & more!

Bay Point
MOVING SALE!
183 Muirhead Cir.
Fri & Sat 3/11-12 9-5
In Emerald Cove Mobile Home Park. Off Canal. Crafts, tools, fishing gear, xmas items & odds & ends

MOVING SALE
Sat-Sun 3/12-13, 9-3
(off Mission)
Tools, many musical instrumts, hshld. motorcycle, & misc.

SAT 3/12 8am to 2pm
2008 Rapallo Way
Furniture, treadmill, TV, and misc. items.

Berkeley
DON'T MISS THIS
SPRING SALE
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! EVERYTHING MUST GO!
829 Santa Rosa Ave
SAT & SUN, 3/12 & 3/13 8-3PM

ESTATE SALE
1140 VERDEMAR DR.
SAT. 9-2

35yrs Accumulations
Furniture, hshld. misc., collectibles, albums, books, and more.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY 9-4

1305 10th STREET
MULTI-FAMILY

SPRING & BOUTIQUE

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MOVING

SAT 3/12: 8-5 2935 Rio Grande Dr End ths, coffee tble, entertainment center, kit, tble, chrs, rocker, child's desk, weight set, & misc. hshld.

CLASSIFIED = RESULTS

Brentwood

Garage Sale Saturday
8AM-12PM
1588 Dawnview Drive
Baby clothes Baby Items Booked hshld items. Toys Lots of clothing, toys, misc.

MOVING SALE
Saturday & Sunday
8AM to 2PM
970 Darby Dr.

LARGE FAMILY SALE!
SATURDAY 8AM-3PM
26 PIPPO PL.
(off Daffny Ave)
Sofas, clothes, toys, boat, 1997 Harley, etc.

MOVING SALE
Fri & Sat 3/11-12 9-5
In Emerald Cove Mobile Home Park. Off Canal. Crafts, tools, fishing gear, xmas items & odds & ends

MOVING SALE
Sat-Sun 3/12-13, 9-3
(off Mission)
Tools, many musical instrumts, hshld. motorcycle, & misc.

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CLASSIFIED = RESULTS

Concord

HUGE GARAGE SALE!
5819 MONTANA DR.
FRI & SAT 3/11 & 3/12
ONLY 10-3
Kids' Items, clothes, electronics, furniture, hshld items, misc. TOO MUCH TO LIST!

KIDS' T'N' US!
323 David Lane/Off David Ave.
Fri, Sat, & Sun 9-3 PM
100's of Toys-kids' clothes-toddler bed-desks-electronic hshld items & MORE!

MOVING GARAGE SALE!
501 Vanda Dr.
Sat 3/12 9-3
No Early Birds!
Hshld gds, furn, misc. tools, sporting goods.

MOVING SALE
Fri-Sat 3/11-12 9-5
No Early Birds
Clothes sz 6-10, shoes sz 6-9, formal dresses, Le-2-Boy chrs, garden tools, odds & ends

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No Early Birds
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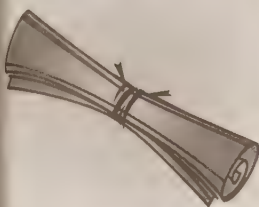
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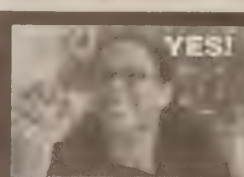
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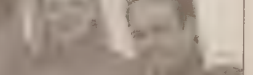
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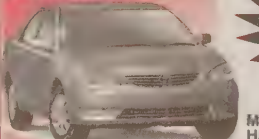


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Shopping Plus

Friday, March 11, 2005

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CELEBRATE SPRING WITH

Creamy Cheesecakes

FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

Creamy and mouthwateringly yummy, cheesecake is still America's favorite dessert, popular with both restaurant chefs and home cooks. And what better season than spring to celebrate its lighter texture and warm colors? Serve your homemade cheesecake proudly on a cake stand or plate, garnished simply with fresh berries, chocolate shavings, edible spring flower blossoms or paper-thin slices of citrus fruit.

Cheesecake certainly looks luscious, but it's the taste and texture that are the true hallmarks of this dessert. Cheesecake can take on just about any palate-pleasing flavor, from citrus, berry or orchard fruits to nuts, coffee and chocolate. Yet it's the silky smooth texture that is the real standout. Achieving this rich creaminess is easy when you use sweetened condensed milk, a classic dessert staple as convenient as your pantry or grocery store shelves.

For more great dessert recipes or to join a monthly e-mail recipe club, visit www.eaglebrand.com

Lemony Cheesecake With Fresh Fruit

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Baking Time: 50 minutes

Makes one (9-inch) cheesecake

- 1 1/4 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 2 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 (14-ounce) can Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk (NOT evaporated milk)
- 3 eggs
- 1/4 cup lemon juice from concentrate
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup fresh assorted fruit (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 300°F. Combine graham cracker crumbs, sugar and butter; press firmly on bottom of 9-inch springform pan.
2. In large bowl, beat cream cheese until fluffy. Gradually beat in sweetened condensed milk until smooth. Add eggs, lemon juice and vanilla; mix well.
3. Pour into prepared pan. Bake 50 to 55 minutes or until center is set (center springs back when lightly touched). Cool. Chill.
4. Serve with fruit (top cake with fruit or serve on side, optional). Store leftovers covered in refrigerator.

Luscious Baked Chocolate Cheesecake

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Baking Time: 1 hour and 5 minutes

Makes one (9-inch) cheesecake

- 1/3 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1 1/4 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 3 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 (14-ounce) can Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk (NOT evaporated milk)
- 1 (12-ounce) package semi-sweet chocolate chips or 8 (1-ounce) squares semi-sweet chocolate, melted
- 4 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1. Preheat oven to 300°F. Combine butter, graham cracker crumbs and sugar; press firmly on bottom of 9-inch springform pan.
2. In large bowl, beat cream cheese until fluffy. Gradually beat in sweetened condensed milk until smooth.
3. Add remaining ingredients; mix well. Pour into prepared pan. Bake 1 hour and 5 minutes or until cake springs back when lightly touched. Cool. Chill. Garnish as desired. Store leftovers covered in refrigerator.

Butterscotch Cheesecake

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Baking Time: 50 minutes

Makes one (9-inch) cheesecake

- 1/3 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1/3 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 (14-ounce) can Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk (NOT evaporated milk)
- 3/4 cup cold water
- 1 (3 5/8-ounce) package butterscotch pudding/pie filling mix
- 3 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Whipped cream
- Crushed hard butterscotch candy

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Combine butter, graham cracker crumbs and sugar; press firmly on bottom of 9-inch springform pan.
2. In medium saucepan, combine sweetened condensed milk and water; mix well. Stir in pudding mix. Over medium heat, cook and stir until thickened and bubbly.
3. In large bowl, beat cream cheese until fluffy. Beat in eggs and vanilla, then pudding mixture. Pour into prepared pan. Bake 50 minutes or until golden brown around edge (center will be soft).
4. Cool to room temperature. Chill. Garnish with whipped cream and crushed candy. Store leftovers covered in refrigerator.

Marbled Cheesecake

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Baking Time: 50 to 60 minutes

Makes one (9-inch) cheesecake

- 1/4 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1/2 cup finely chopped walnuts
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 4 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 (14-ounce) can Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk (NOT evaporated milk)
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 3 (1-ounce) squares semi-sweet chocolate, melted

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Combine graham cracker crumbs, walnuts, sugar and butter; press firmly on bottom of 9-inch springform pan.
2. In large bowl, beat cream cheese until fluffy. Gradually beat in sweetened condensed milk until smooth. Beat in eggs, flour and vanilla. Measure 1 1/2 cups batter into medium bowl.
3. Add chocolate; mix well. Spoon half the vanilla batter into prepared pan then half the chocolate batter. Repeat process ending with chocolate batter. With metal spatula or table knife, gently swirl batter to marble. Bake 50 to 60 minutes or until center is set. Cool. Chill. Garnish as desired. Store leftovers covered in refrigerator.

Whether you are an adult, teen or child, manners really do matter

BY KAREN HERZOG
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Table manners aren't child's play. But children who don't learn to wait their turn for the potatoes or to chew with their mouth closed may face challenges later in life — especially in their careers.

"The No. 1 reason people lose a job is they don't play well with others," said Mary Spencer, director of placement at the Milwaukee School of Engineering.

Three times a year, the school offers etiquette and interpersonal skill workshops for engineering students who are preparing for job interviews.

Lunch or dinner often is part of job interviews. The prospective employer is attuned to not only what the candidate says, but how he or she handles details of dinner — from selecting menu items to finessing conversation, Spencer said. That's because technical job skills aren't all that matter, especially if the job will involve entertaining clients over dinner.

"Table manners are considered shorthand for other aspects of etiquette," said Margery Sinclair of Glendale, Wis., who teaches etiquette classes for both children and business clients. "If table manners are fine, the rest of their social skills are considered good as well. Etiquette refers to all of the rules governing behavior. Manners refers to one's personal behavior."

If children develop good manners, they grow up with respect and consideration for others, Sinclair said, and tend to have more friends. "Children who grow up with a knowledge of etiquette have a lifelong advantage."

Sinclair has a favorite quote from "Miss Manners" Judith Martin: "Sloppy eating habits have probably ruined more relationships than evil hearts."

Stressing table manners from childhood through adulthood sounds a bit old-fashioned, but it's part of the lifelong pursuit of happiness, according to both those who teach etiquette and the professionals who validate its importance.

Spencer said MSOE started offering its workshops on etiquette after getting feedback from business owners and students about skills that needed honing, such as "what

to wear to an interview and how to handle dinner."

"Students ate pizza and hamburgers for four years and all of the sudden, they were confronted with multiple forks and questions such as, 'Who orders, can I order a drink, do you crush the crackers for soup, which fork do I use first, and can I eat the flower on my plate?'" Spencer said.

Initially, MSOE had to do "a lot of selling" to get students who prided themselves on technical job skills to attend etiquette workshops, Spencer said. But turnout has been strong at the workshops taught by outside professionals.

Donna Panko, owner of Professional Skill Builders consulting in Chicago, has taught some of the MSOE workshops, which cover general business etiquette and image building.

"I usually do a Dine-and-Learn, where we walk through each course and talk about dos and taboos," Panko said.

Many twentysomethings enter the workplace after growing up with parents who didn't take the time to teach etiquette at home, she said.

It doesn't occur to them that, even with a polished resume, etiquette matters, she said.

Etiquette is one-third common sense, one-third courteousness and one-third knowledge, Panko said. "Most people have never really thought about it before."

Sinclair started teaching children's etiquette at Milwaukee's George Watts Tea Shop about 15 years ago.

"I wanted to be validated and have my young son hear from someone else what I was teaching at home," she said.

At that time, no one else was teaching children's etiquette, and shop owner George Watts suggested Sinclair start her own class.

"Parents are so glad I'm doing something like this," she said. "I'm not doing anything that can't be taught at home, but it's independent validation of what is taught at home."

That's why Kelly and Chris Kluck of Brookfield, Wis., enrolled their 8-year-old son, Andrew, in a recent three-session etiquette class at the shop.

Andrew didn't mind being the

"Etiquette is coachable. It's very sad when someone deserves a promotion based on work skills, but doesn't get it because they lack social skills."

— Margery Sinclair, etiquette teacher

only boy in a group with 11 girls, his mom said. He's the only boy in his reading group at school, too.

"Now that he's taken the class, he tries to help us learn things we didn't know," such as the difference between European- and American-style eating, Kelly Kluck said. "And as we were leaving his class, he told us what we should do with our napkins as we left the table."

For those who don't know, Americans switch the fork from their left hand — used during cutting — to their right hand to actually eat, while Europeans stick with the left hand for both cutting and eating.

As for the napkin, it is left on the chair if you're planning to return to the table, but placed on the table if you're leaving the table for good.

"I think it's all part of having good social graces, and it helps him build respect for others, be kind to others and learn proper eye contact," Kelly Kluck said. "This is one more layer in helping our son grow into a good person who can be productive."

Sisters Imani, 8, and Shamoni Ray, 9, took the same etiquette class with their cousin, Asia Wilson, 10.

The three Brown Deer girls all were excited about the class, said Carmen Ray, mother of Imani and Shamoni and aunt of Asia.

Shamoni and Asia had been invited to a debutante ball before the etiquette class started, and Shamoni told her mom she felt awkward at the ball, unsure of the rules.

As an administrator of a child care center, Carmen Ray said she sees the value of etiquette in professional settings. This is part of what she wants to instill in her own daughters.

"Table manners weren't emphasized when I was growing up, but I remember watching families on TV, eating dinner together and thinking this is how I wanted it to be when I had kids someday," she said.

Ray said she was especially pleased to see Sinclair focusing on general social skills, such as formal introductions and eye contact.

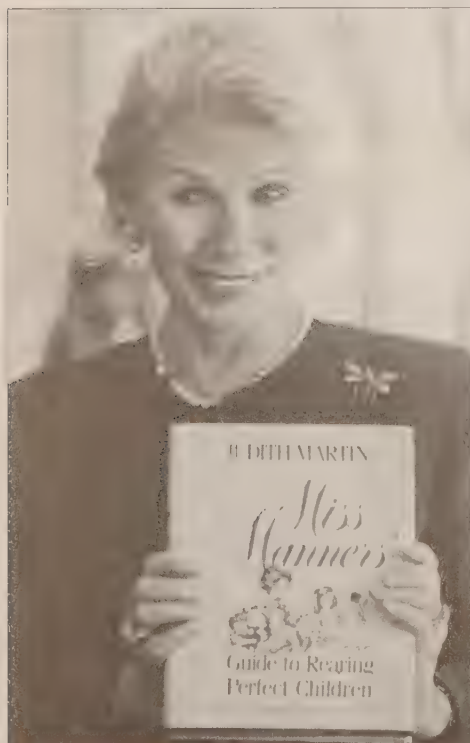
Sinclair said she offers a special rate for Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops because she was once a Girl Scout Leader and a Brownie leader, and she likes to reach wider audiences.

Years ago, parents started asking whether she offered classes for grown-ups. Now she mainly teaches adults through corporate etiquette dinners.

"Etiquette is coachable," Sinclair said. "It's very sad when someone deserves a promotion based on work skills, but doesn't get it because they lack social skills."



MARGERY SINCLAIR guides Andrew Kluck, 8, top, through proper table etiquette and Shamoni Ray, 8, bottom, through proper table etiquette as her mother, Carmen Ray, looks on during a class.



DAVID JOLES/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

ETIQUETTE TEACHER Margery Sinclair gives parents examples of books for teaching proper table manners to kids during a class in Milwaukee, Wis.

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Six steps to a successful container garden

Container gardening is one of the most creative gardening forms in which color combinations, texture and even the container itself can express your artistry or a mood in the house, on your deck or front porch, and even in your garden.

The following are simple, easy-to-follow steps to get things started even for those of you who don't have a green thumb.

Step 1: Select the right pot for your plants

Any container that appeals to you is a possibility — choose sizes, and styles that not only match your plant, but also your environment.

Think foam. Foam pots, like those from Fiskars Garden & Outdoor Living, are extremely lightweight and durable. The pot's polyurethane foam also protects roots in extreme temperatures.

Plants should be 1 to 2 inches taller than the root ball so roots have room to grow and expand. Plants may need more room (2 to 3 inches).

Step 2: Create and cover drainage

Punch holes in bottom of the

pot.

■ Use wire mesh to cover holes so soil mix doesn't run out with any excess water.

■ Fill bottom portion of container with gravel, rocks, pieces of broken crockery or packing peanuts to create a drain field. That way, excess water won't seep through the pot and rot the roots of the plants.

Step 3: Prepare the potting soil.

■ Always use a prepared mix; never use soil from your home garden, which almost always contains weed seeds, bugs, or unhealthy bacteria.

■ A versatile potting soil suitable for most plants contains 60 percent peat moss, 19 percent Perlite, 20 percent Vermiculite, and 1 percent Lime.

■ Always check with a lawn and garden specialist to find out what type of soil mix is recommended for the plants you are using.

Step 4: Add potting mix and plants.

■ Add 2 to 3 inches of potting mix to the bottom of the pot (larger plants may require more mix).

■ Set plant into pot and add potting mix around sides, tamping down with thumbs as you go.

■ Don't be afraid to mix a variety of plants in one container — a full arrangement could have tall plants in the center, working out to the sides with smaller plants.

■ Make sure the top of root ball is just under the top of the soil.

■ Leave 1-1/2 to 2 inches of watering space between the top of the soil and the rim of the pot.

Step 5: Water thoroughly.

■ Give a full flush of water through the planter the first time you water it.

■ For larger plants, you can opt to place the pot in a tub filled with about 1/2 inch of water for approximately 15 minutes.

Step 6: Place in indirect lighting for three to four days, and water as necessary.

■ Keep an eye on your container garden — especially in hot weather as it can dry out quickly.

■ Keep in mind that fertilizers wash out of container soils faster than out of garden soils, so you may wish to apply a liquid fertilizer at half strength to the plant every two weeks.

For more information about lightweight foam pottery and container gardening tips, contact Fiskars Garden & Outdoor Living at 800-500-4849, or visit www.homelesure-products.com.



FOAM POTS, like those from Fiskars Garden & Outdoor Living, are extremely lightweight yet durable. The pot's polyurethane foam also protects roots in extreme temperatures.

Take ownership in your problems to lower your level of stress

JUDI LIGHT HOPSON, MA, H. HOPSON AND TED HAGEN, PH.D.

CONCERNED NEWS SERVICE

Do you have a truckload of problems that weigh steadily on your mind?

Do you have family issues, problems, and a hundred difficulties pulling you down. Do you feel overwhelmed by daily problems. Deciding if we can take ownership in what's around us can turn things around. Taking ownership means you claim any responsibility in the situation. It also helps guarantee you'll be a part in the bottom line of what happens to fix the problem.

At the time, though not taking ownership means you must the help of others in. It's good to admit that you are a part in causing the mess in. You're not totally guilty. You're willing to take some responsibility and do your part, otherwise it and often meet you.

If you need to let go of problems — and abandon ship you've wrongly claimed someone else's craziness — lighten your stress as well. Here are some quick tips for you more clearly:

Do an autopsy on your worst problems. Take time to dig into why they're occurring. You can't fix anything without fully understanding the cause of it.

Give problems to their right owners. Don't take on a work that isn't yours, for example. You can assist others to some extent, but don't try to fix problems that belong to other adults — you have some ownership problem.

Define how you're causing your problems. If you're rightly to blame, this means you have to change some of your behaviors.

Ask yourself, "How are my actions leading into the stress?"

Months ago, a man we'll call Roy called us because his 18-year-old daughter was on drugs. He was home and was living with her. When he asked Roy to take ownership in the problem, he exploded. However, when he calmed down, Roy told us this: "My wife was a pill for everything. Our daughter has seen us abuse medicine. It's hard to tell your child something that you're doing yourself."

We advised Roy to meet with his daughter and ask her a few questions.

For example, one big question he needed to ask his daughter was: "How have your mother and I failed you?" He needed to know how his daughter perceived his mistakes and her mother's mistakes in her upbringing.

Roy's daughter cried when Roy opened up this way. She told her dad that she hated her sick lifestyle. She didn't want to live with the friends she was living with. She didn't want to take drugs.

"My daughter could see I was taking ownership in her failed life," says Roy. "She sobbed convulsively and told me, 'You, me, and Mom all need to get help!' I scheduled us for family therapy that week."

Taking ownership of large problems doesn't always call for therapy. Good, old-fashioned common sense can work, too. Clear thinking can help you decide to take bold action.

One woman we'll call Deanna taught a seminar with us. She shares this story: "I was once so angry with my boss, I started fantasizing about killing him! That's when I knew I had to change jobs, which I did."

"I had a mentally ill supervisor who caused me and my coworkers to quake in our shoes," she continues. "My ownership in that problem was that I needed to recognize true mental illness in another adult — which is very, very difficult to do. We can tend to blame ourselves for the madness."

Ownership in a problem does, in fact, sometimes adds up to declaring that we will define the problem as insurmountable. We must run from it.

A 60-year-old woman we'll call Peggy divorced her husband of

40 years last fall. He abused Peggy and their now-grown children. But, Peggy covered his sins and stayed with him through four decades of hell.

"Last summer, my husband and I rented a large houseboat with other family members," says Peggy. "My husband got drunk and slapped our three-year-old granddaughter very hard," says Peggy. "My son-in-law threw my husband into the lake!"

"I knew when I fantasized on the spot that he'd drown," says Peggy. "That I had failed to act maturely about my failed marriage relationship. Ownership of a problem can mean deciding when to abandon a person causing problems that drive you nuts!"

If your marriage or another important relationship is shaky, take time to examine your own part in the tension. See if the relationship is salvageable by trying out new actions that bring out the best in the other person — not the worst.

Watch what you say, do, and think — so you'll open up a new way for the other person to talk, act, and think.

If not, you might need to free yourself from another person on a permanent basis.

Remember, though, that your actions must produce healthy results for you — not just bend you out of shape to accommodate another person.

These tips can help you define

actions you might take:

■ Ask yourself, "Are there any actions I can take to lower the tension of this problem without allowing the problem to grow larger?" If so, begin immediately. Change some small things to see if the chemistry of the problem starts to improve at all. This might mean you'll nag less, act more complimentary of the other person, or admit some faults of your own to another person.

■ Ask for help from others involved in the tension. For example, if you're quarreling with your sister, ask her to help figure out what to do. Let her know you're open to hearing her ideas concerning how to smooth things out.

■ Stop dealing with non-negotiators. Don't waste your time working with people who don't respect you. If another person gives you little cooperation, he or she has not taken ownership in the stressful situation.

A psychologist friend of ours advises we all should judge others by their hearts — not necessarily by their mouths. We'll call this psychologist Bill.

"When I counsel people, I can eventually tell who is playing fair and who is not," Bill explains. "People who care about others have soft hearts, even if they're ranting and raving."

"By their verbal and non-verbal communication, they let me know they do want to take ownership in

the problem, no matter how they've been hurt."

He continues, "Some individuals might whine and complain in a therapy session — putting down a mate or another person. But, this complainer's kind heart will jump out at me, no matter what's being said. I have real hope for these soft-hearted types of people."

Bill summarizes taking ownership this way: "Relationships can thrive, even under pressure, if each person feels the other is concerned about the bottom line of what's going on. The most painful marriage, for example, can be healed if both people take ownership of the tension."

Bill continues, "Stubborn people who play sick or won't come in for therapy have made up their minds they will take no ownership in problems. These are the people that I fear will wind up alone in their old age — with not even one friend!"

"If you're too innocent-acting, other people can't trust you," he laughs. "It's better to claim part of the tension, rather than try to come out of everything smelling like a rose."

People love people who are humbly human — people who admit they can make a mistake. You will endear yourself to others by taking ownership in problems."

Judi Hopson and Emma Hopson are authors of a stress management book for paramedics, firefighters and police, "Burnout To Balance: EMS Stress," published by Prentice Hall/Brady Books. Ted Hagen is a family psychologist. Write to them in care of Knight Rider/Tribune News Service, 700 12th St. N.W. Suite 1000, Washington DC 20005; please enclose a copy of the column and the name of the newspaper you saw it in. You can also contact the authors through the Web site www.judi-light-hopson.com.

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Stirring conversation at the dinner table

BY THERESA WALKER
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

SANTA ANA — The dinner table was the place to be in Julienné Smith's childhood home in Fullerton.

Her father, a constitutional law professor and a Lutheran minister, was a busy man. But her parents made the family meal a priority since it was about the only time they could sit down together with their four children.

Typically, visitors joined the dinner table — law students, missionaries, folks from different walks of life who didn't have a place to eat that night.

"I remember sitting there listening to these great conversations," Smith says in her husky voice, savoring the memory. "They would talk law and politics and theology. Just the most interesting conversations."

Nothing like the rushed, monosyllabic talk taking place at her own dinner table years later when she became a self-described "supermom" with three children into soccer and dance and other interests that precluded spending much time at the table.

"We were the family that was gobbling down our meals. It was, 'How was your day? Fine.' And bolting from the table."

Smith, a former broadcast TV reporter and radio talk-show host, decided to change that. First, she limited her children's scheduled activities. Then she started bringing something else to the table to stimulate conversation beyond the standard inquiries about school or work.

She'd jot down on an index card some saying that had caught her eye or ear that day — a quote from a newspaper story, a song lyric, a message on a billboard — and toss it out on the table. The family took turns talking about what was on the card. Her kids loved it.

"Before, we just asked how was your day just to humor them, not because we really wanted to know," says her daughter, Nicole, 13. The cards "were out of the ordinary. Not just the regular stuff like football and soccer."

That was seven years ago. Now those handwritten cues have evolved into a handsomely packaged recipe box of 200 glossy, printed cards called "Food for Talk."

The cards include questions about life that Smith thinks up herself, quotes from people as diverse as Hoagy Carmichael, Mother Teresa and Lance Armstrong, and invitations to share such things as a best and worst memory from the past, five things that make you smile, or a recent dream.

Smith's intention is to help families move past routine chitchat to a deeper level of communication — like the recent conversation around the kitchen table in her Yorba Linda, Calif., home, a mix of old memories and new insights.

Smith and her children — Nicole, Jordan, 15; and Adam, 10, — were joined for brunch by friends Ken and Linda Simpson and their two children, Julia, 17, and Kyle, 15.

They sat down to egg and turkey ham casserole, fresh fruit, coffee, cake, orange juice and coffee. And this card that Julia pulled from the "Food for Talk" side dish: "A wise man (or person) controls his temper. He knows that anger causes mistakes." Proverbs 14:29. Share a time when you lost your temper and another time when you controlled your anger. Explain how differently both situations worked out."

Kyle remembered the time he threw a toy truck at his sister's head in the car because she wouldn't share new toys with him. Nicole told about the times she poked her fin-

The benefits of family meals go beyond stronger bonds. A 2003 survey of youth ages 12-17 by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse found that teens who shared family meals five or more times a week were less likely to smoke or try alcohol and marijuana, and did better in school. Other studies show better psychological adjustment in adolescents and fewer eating disorders in girls.

gers at Adam's eyes and sprayed Binaca at him.

The kids, and the parents, laugh. Even a surprised but amused Smith. "I never heard that."

Adam couldn't think of a specific example but said he's learned he ends up the loser when he loses his temper with big brother Jordan: "I just get hurt more."

Ken Simpson revealed how the other day he was angry at his wife for something, but rather than confront her, decided to think it over for a while and see if it really was an issue. Turned out, he says, that it wasn't really a problem.

"I had manufactured the whole thing in my mind. It worked out because I did not go over the deep end over something that wasn't an issue."

Linda Simpson admits she'll get upset over a mess her kids leave behind, but then she'll read about people dealing with real tragedies and everything falls into perspective.

"You go, oh well. They still should clean up, but it's not the worst thing in the world."

This reminds Smith of the time she went on strike, tired of doing all the cleaning and chauffeuring without a word of thanks. She let things go for a week; the kids got the point.

"You guys appreciated me. You guys made cards. I still have them."

The conversation continues on for a good hour, drifting into talk about handling sticky situations at school and whether the girls would want to date temperamental guys. (No, they said, they wouldn't.)

Julia came away with a greater understanding, and appreciation, for her parents.

"I think I have a new respect for my mom and dad, for sure. I'm like, wow, my parents did that."

The enthusiasm friends showed for the conversation that her handwritten index cards stirred encouraged Smith to take her idea beyond her own kitchen table. Divorced and still raising her kids as a full-time, stay-at-home mom, Smith also wanted an independent source of income.

She couldn't get a publisher to bite on "Food for Talk," so she invested \$20,000 of her own money, found a graphic artist and an illustrator and self-published through Seven Locks Press.

Apparently a lot of other families are hungry for good conversation at the table. The first 8,000 copies of "Food for Talk," introduced last summer, sold out in six months. The next printing of 10,000 copies is due in March, and Smith is buzzing with ideas for new themed editions.

"Food for Talk" won awards from the National Parenting Publications Awards and iParenting Media, along with praise from Woman's Day.

Smith knows plenty of people will raise an eyebrow at the notion that families need props just to sit at the table and talk. But the simple fact is, fewer families regularly eat meals together these days — one 1999 study said only one in three. And meal-times are much more compressed. More than half of American fam-

ilies have the TV on during dinner or zap individual meals in the microwave and haven't developed the habit of eating together and having mealtime conversations, says William Doherty, a professor of family social science at the University of Minnesota.

"Products like this can help some families jump start themselves into a family meal," says Doherty, who is involved in two grass-roots efforts in the Minneapolis area to get parents to commit to four or more family dinners a week. "Something that would seem to be a no-brainer is actually something a lot of families decide they have to be intentional and mindful about."

The benefits of family meals go beyond stronger bonds.

A 2003 survey of youth ages 12-17 by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse found that teens who shared family meals five or more times a week were less likely to smoke or try alcohol and marijuana, and did better in school. Other studies show better psychological adjustment in adolescents and fewer eating disorders in girls.

That evidence motivates Smith to get "Food for Talk" into more homes. "It's just a simple box," she says. "It looks kind of innocuous. But I know from my own family, it can have a truly powerful and lasting impact on your family. It's not so much this product, but the byproduct of the conversations you have."

Where to find it
"Food for Talk" retails for \$19.95 and can be found in the gift section of some Borders Books and Music stores and Barnes & Noble stores. It also is available on Amazon.com or through Bas Bleu and Chinaberry catalogs.

Her Web site is www.foodfortalk.net.

Tips for talk
Here are some ideas to create family mealtime or make it more meaningful:

- If you don't already have regular family dinners, start with the goal of getting together at least once a week, perhaps Sundays. If evenings are bad, try breakfast, or brunch on the weekends. Build from there.

- If you don't have time to cook dinner, you can bring home takeout and still set the table.
- Make sure everyone knows what time the meal is. Wait for everyone to get there before starting, and don't traipse off one-by-one as you finish.

- Get rid of distractions. Clear the table of everything other than what you need for the meal. Turn off the TV. Ignore, silence or unplug the phone.
- Make it something special. Set the table with place mats and napkins. Light candles. Put on some music.

- If you're using a conversation starter like "Food for Talk," let the kids go first. Give the person whose turn it is time to think about their answer. Be polite; don't interrupt or criticize.



JULIENNÉ SMITH (center) with her children from left: Nicole, 13, Adam, 10, and Jordan, 15. She invented a game called "Food for Talk" to make families closer by talking around the dinner table.



THE RECIPE BOX of 200 glossy, printed cards called "Food for Talk."



THE SMITHS ARE JOINED for food and conversation by their friends, the Simpsons — Linda Ken and their children Kyle and Julia. Clockwise from lower right are Linda, Ken, Adam, Nicole, Julia and Julienné.

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May we be surrounded by blessing and may we be aware of them

Dinner tonight: A little know-how turns leftover pot roast into something special

BY CAROL MIGHTON HADDIX
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Let the word "recycled" become a mantra in your culinary efforts as well as in garbage detail. It's the right thing to do for the sake of your household budget and, more important, for easing the strain of creating speedy weeknight dinners.

Recycled pot roast is a case in point. The long-braised meat turns into innumerable second- and third-day meals. Here, the meat also could be any braised meat, such as pork, lamb or chicken, transforms into a hearty meat dish with the help of wine and mustard as flavorings.

Use leftover vegetables, if you have any, or handy frozen ones. The family may never complain about recycling again.

Pot roast penne
■ Iceberg wedges with creamy mustard dressing

- Garlic toast
- Dates with Parmesan curls
- Chianti

Tips

- If you don't have any leftover pot roast, you can purchase precooked pot roast in the supermarket meat case.
- Use canned beef gravy if you don't have leftover gravy.

POT ROAST PENNE

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 pound penne
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 2 teaspoons herb-flavored mustard, such as rosemary or tarragon
- 1 cup each: dry red wine, leftover beef gravy
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 2 cups cooked, shredded beef pot roast
- 1 cup cooked vegetables, such as carrots or peas

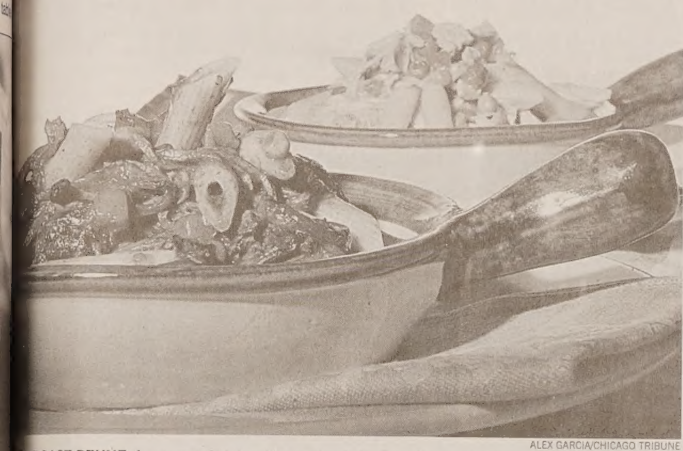
Grated Parmesan cheese, optional

Heat a large saucepan of water and ½ teaspoon of the salt to a boil over high heat; add pasta. Cook according to package directions; drain.

Meanwhile, heat olive oil over high heat in a large skillet; add garlic and onion. Reduce heat to medium; cook, stirring, until onion softens, 5 minutes. Whisk in mustard until smooth. Add wine; cook, stirring often, until reduced by half, about 5 minutes. Stir in beef gravy, remaining salt and pepper to taste; cook until heated through, about 3 minutes.

Stir in beef; heat through, about 2 minutes. Stir in vegetables; heat through, about 1 minute. Return pasta to large saucepan; pour in beef mixture. Toss to coat. Serve in pasta bowls, topped with Parmesan cheese, if desired.

Preparation time: 15 minutes; cooking time: 20 minutes; makes 6 servings.



ALEX GARCIA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

POT ROAST PENNE, front, and Chicken Penne, back, in a modern setting.



PAUL BIANCHINA

AROUND THE HOUSE

Bright ideas to enhance the lighting in your home

Go beyond plugging in a lamp

INMAN NEWS

For most people, home lighting considerations go no further than buying a lamp and plugging it in. But there's a lot more to providing lighting that is comfortable, attractive, safe and pleasant to work in.

The two most common types of lighting found in the home are incandescent and fluorescent. Incandescent lights — the common light bulb — is produced by passing an electrical current through a small wire, called a filament. The friction of the current's passage heats the wire until it glows and light is produced.

Incandescent light is warm and yellow and is preferred for most general task lighting. It can also be controlled by dimmer switches to allow better regulation of the amount of light from a given fixture.

On the down side, incandescent light is one of the least energy efficient forms of lighting, and also produces a substantial amount of heat, which can restrict its use in certain applications.

Fluorescent light is created when electricity is applied to a glass tube that is coated on the inside and filled with gas. The electricity causes the coating to "fluoresce," or glow, producing light.

Fluorescent light is soft and diffuses well over a larger area than incandescent, producing virtually shadow-free light. It is more economical to operate than incandescent light, producing three to five times as much light from the same wattage.

Fluorescent light is naturally white, but tube coatings can be used to create a warmer, less harsh light. The tubes also pro-

duce virtually no heat during operation, but dimmer control is limited and comparatively expensive.

There are three basic levels of lighting, depending on the location and the desired use of the lighted area.

■ Low level lighting, such as that for TV watching or general relaxing, should be in the 40-to-60-watt range for an incandescent light, or 16 to 22 watts for fluorescents.

■ Moderate level lighting is common for short term use, or for easy-seeing applications like eating, exercising, and other general tasks. It is typically in the range of 120 to 150 watts (combined in one or more fixtures), or about 30 to 44 watts of fluorescent light.

■ The third level is high, for prolonged use or tasks where seeing is difficult, such as reading fine print or doing intricate hobbies. This level calls for approximately 180 to 300 watts of incandescent light, or 45 watts and greater of fluorescent light.

When selecting lights for specific uses, here are some general rules of thumb:

Reading

Floor lamps should be placed slightly behind you and to the left or right of your shoulder, while table lamps should be set so the base is about at shoulder height and approximately 20 inches to either side of the reading material. Casual reading should be done under about 150 watts of light, or 200 to 250 for prolonged reading or studying.

Desk and work-table lights

Use a lamp that creates a uniform, glare- and shadow-free light on the desk. The more intricate or prolonged the work being done at the desk, the higher the wattage of light that's needed — typically a minimum of 200 watts of incan-

descent light or 40 watts of fluorescent. If you're right-handed, place the lamp on the left so that the light is not shadowed by your arm — do the opposite if you're left-handed.

Bathroom lighting

Bathroom lighting should be set up so as to eliminate shadows under your eyes, nose, cheeks and chin. Utilize one or more central lights for general use, plus fixtures set up so as to concentrate light around mirrors. You can use strip lights with a series of 25-watt bulbs for good lighting around mirrors. If you're using fluorescent lights, remember that soft-white tubes are the most flattering to your skin tone.

Kitchen

Simply placing a light on the ceiling is not nearly enough for the amount of concentrated work that occurs in the average kitchen; you need to concentrate light over specified work surfaces as well. Select fluorescent fixtures for under the upper cabinets to shed light on the counters — the light is uniform and shadow-free and heat is not a problem. Use two 100-watt bulbs or two 75-watt reflector bulbs over the sink and one or two 60- to 75-watt bulbs over the cooktop.

Television

While some people prefer a dark room for watching television, most experts recommend that the room have some light — it lessens the sharp contrast with the bright TV screen and makes for more comfortable viewing. Use a dimmed downlight or a floor or table lamp with a three-way bulb on the lowest setting. Place your fixtures carefully so that the light is not reflected on the TV screen.

Remodeling and repair questions? E-mail Paul at paul2887@di-recway.com.

The battle of the sexes: Gender has vital role in workplace behavior

BY DIANE EVANS
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Ever notice how men stand out of a workshop held at one of the other day, titled "Invisible Rules: Men, Women and Work." The Women's Initiative Council of United Way of Summit sponsored the meeting, although it was a repeat of a session earlier for Goodyear employees.

The point was to draw attention to the differing behavior patterns men and women, especially in the workplace. It's not that one is right and the other wrong. However, if we don't understand each other, we're more prone to taking the wrong way.

The program started with a 30-minute video by author and management consultant Pat Heim of Pacific Palisades, Calif.

Several times, Heim referred to slides to back up her observations. But it didn't seem she had much convincing to do.

In small-group discussions that followed her taped presentation, 350 or so women in the audience — along with a few men — gave examples from their own lives to confirm what she said.

Here are some points from Heim's taped presentation:

■ In business meetings, men tend to talk longer than women. Their focus is on selling their ideas. By contrast, women tend to worry about keeping their comments brief so everyone gets time to talk. Women end up getting less attention as a result.

■ Men are more likely to speak in declaratory terms, saying things such as, "This needs to get done." Women are more likely to allow room for their ideas to be challenged. For example, women often hedge, by framing an idea in a question, or by qualifying what they say with words such as maybe, possibly or hopefully. Men, in turn, may construe this as wishy-washy, when in reality, a woman may simply be trying to build consensus.

■ Men are more likely to enter a meeting having already lined up support for what they want to do. The real meeting may have taken place in the hallway, over lunch, or on the golf course. If women don't understand this, they may enter a meeting expecting a meaningful exchange, when in effect, the issues have been decided.

In small-group discussions that followed, the consensus on several points came across clearly. One is that women would help themselves by being more assertive, more direct and less

apologetic. There was also a sense that women put too much blame on themselves for things that go wrong. Some also thought that women should be more willing — as men often are — to come across as knowing an answer, even when they're not 100 percent sure.

"Be forceful and be convinced you can do it," one experienced female manager at my table said. "You'll figure it out later."

Jane Sanders, another management consultant and author who writes on this subject, recommends that women hold back on providing details of their business plans, because they might need such information later for backup. She also advises women to take credit for their accomplishments, give updates whether they are requested or not, and make most decisions independently without asking others for the sake of consensus. Of course, the issue of leadership is complex, and gender differences play only one role.

On its Web site, the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, N.C., says this: "Effectiveness in leadership is a product of the nature of connections and relationships among the parts of the

system, and is dependent on choosing leadership strategies that address the challenges an organization faces." In other words, adaptability is important, and so are strong relationships.

If you're interested in this issue, there are several articles on leadership at the center's Web site at www.ccl.org. Some of those articles also report on what research

is saying about generational differences in the workplace. Sounds like another column for another day.

Online

Join Diane Evans online forum and live chats at forums.prospero.com/kr-ohio_evans.

Diane Evans is an Akron Beacon Journal columnist.

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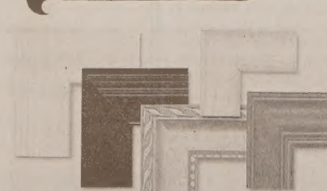
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Let spring in with stylish and versatile windows and doors

Spring is just around the corner and people across the country will be opening up their homes to let the spring breezes and warm weather in. This year, bringing the outdoors in could be faster, easier and more beautiful than ever with a variety of new products from the window and door industry.

Some of the hottest products in this market right now are retractable screen doors. "Builders and homeowners are really excited about our new retractable screen doors," says Jeff Williams, senior brand manager at Weather Shield Windows and Doors. "There's no need to hide a beautiful entry door beneath a screen. When your door is closed and you don't need a screen, our new screen rolls into a slender housing attached to the doorframe. You don't even know it's there. When you're ready to open your door and let the outside air in, the screen rolls smoothly across the doorway, forming a tight seal over the opening to let the air in and keep everything else out."

Another added benefit of the retractable screen doors is their ease of use and durability. Top and bottom guide rails smoothly guide the door when moving, and

a heavy duty magnet secures the door closed. The Weather Shield fiberglass mesh screen is coated with non-glare PVC for enhanced durability.

When the screen is not in use, the housing protects it from the elements, extending its life. "Ultimately, retractable screen doors allow homeowners to enjoy the convenience of a screen door when they need one and to forget it's there when they don't," says Williams.

Another increasingly popular way to open your home to the outdoors is with telescoping patio doors with up to six panels. These multi-panel sliding glass doors can open as little or as wide as you want, instantly transforming and expanding a room.

"Homeowners like our telescoping patio doors both because of their aesthetic and their versatility," says Williams. "When the telescoping patio doors are closed, they are beautiful and provide a stunning view of the outdoors. When the weather is nice and you want to bring the outdoors in, the panels of the door slide open, creating a large airy space."

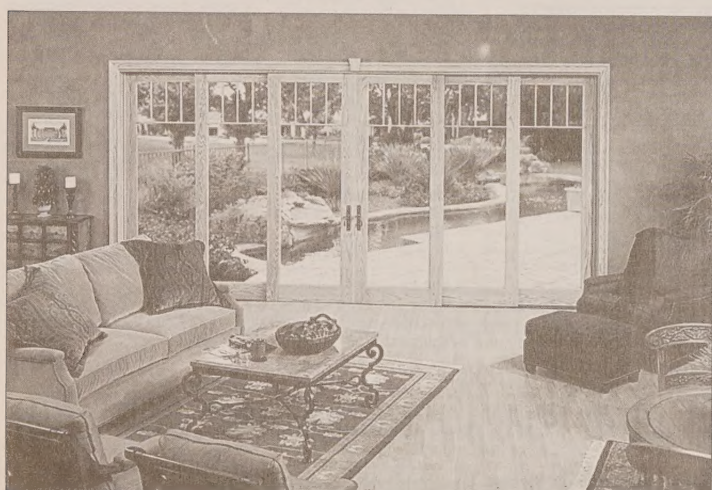
Even if you are simply looking to install or replace a sliding patio door this spring, the range and

quality of products now on the market are quite impressive. Companies such as Weather Shield have redesigned their doors for improved durability, performance, energy efficiency and aesthetics.

The new Weather Shield designs feature a sleek look with cleaner sight lines and architecturally proportioned stiles and rails. A new slider system has improved rollers and a new door channel design that effortlessly guide the moving panels. A rot-resistant, pultruded fiberglass sill has an internal weep system that prevents side jams from absorbing moisture.

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Class-action suits likely to increase as companies cut older employees

BY JOHN GALLAGHER
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

DETROIT — To hear some futurists' upbeat forecasts, the aging of the baby boom generation will usher in a golden era for older workers.

Employers, so the theory holds, will be so desperate for talented people that they'll woo older workers with all manner of perks and promises to keep them on the job.

But not everyone agrees with this rosy scenario. Lawyers involved in age discrimination lawsuits say we're more likely to see a rise in the number of discrimination complaints and, at the very least, more hard feelings among older workers.

That's because companies, including those in the automotive industry that form the backbone of Michigan's economy, long have made it a practice to target older workers for buyouts and early retirement as a way to slim their workforces.

Some older workers might be happy to take the money and run. But many feel betrayed, angry and devalued.

"I believe the companies are going to cut older employees for a whole host of reasons," says Royal Oak, Mich.-based attorney Michael Pitt, who represents workers who sue their employers over alleged age, race and sex discrimination. "Cost-savings reasons or restructuring reasons or just because of bias," he adds. "Older employees are going to continue to be targeted."

At the heart of such action, Pitt contends, is a belief that older workers are not as technologically savvy as younger workers. The stereotype persists even today, he says.

But it's not just plaintiffs attorneys like Pitt who expect more disputes over age discrimination in the future. Lawyers who represent employers agree that a mythical golden age for older workers most likely never will materialize.

"I think that the trend more likely will be people feeling they

have been denied access to the workforce based on age, whether it's downsizing, aging or made to feel marginalized," says Andrea Roumell Dickson, an attorney with Detroit-based firm Butzel Long and past chair of the labor and employment law section of the State Bar of Michigan.

Dickson suggests that the nation needs to think about what's a reasonable retirement age — and what companies in financial stress should be allowed to do to enforce it.

"Yes, it becomes very challenging when employers want to do reduction in forces," she says. "If you have an aging population, you're more likely to have an impact on older employees. The question then becomes, 'What's old?' Is 40, 50, 60?"

"If my average age of my workforce before my reduction in force is 50, and afterward is 43, is that age discrimination?" she continues. "Can someone use that stat and say this is a big difference?"

Like much else concerning boomer retirement, the evidence for a trend remains incomplete. On the one hand, complaints about alleged age discrimination filed with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission have been trending upward since 1999. Age-related complaints to the EEOC were more than 19,000 during 2003, up more than a third since 1999's level.

But it's hard to say how many of those new complaints represent increased discrimination. Complaints tend to rise in a faltering economy, when layoffs increase and workers who lose their jobs tend to feel aggrieved. Complaints to the EEOC today are running about where they were during the previous recession in 1992. Moreover, usually half or more of initial complaints are dismissed as unfounded.

How future disputes are resolved in court might depend on what the U.S. Supreme Court does about a case currently before it. In November, the court heard arguments in a Mississippi

case trying to determine whether older employees can sue for damages even if the discrimination against them was unintentional.

The case, Smith v. City of Jackson, Miss., involves a group of older firefighters who sued because a new department pay scale tended to give better raises to younger firefighters. The city defended itself, saying the raises were not based on age but on experience.

Firefighters with less than five years on the job were put on a faster pay track as an inducement to recruit new members. But older firefighters contended that the effect on their own pay, while unintentional, nonetheless proved discriminatory.

If the firefighters win, age discrimination cases will be put on the same footing as race or gender civil rights disputes, in which somebody may sue even if the offensive behavior was unintentional, or what lawyers call a result of disparate impact. Everyone agrees the firefighters could sue if the city deliberately targeted the pay of older workers. What the Supreme Court needs to decide, then, is whether unintentional discrimination provides grounds to sue.

Many legal experts believe a flood of new class actions could result if the court rules older workers can sue on the grounds of disparate impact, and not just over intentional discrimination.

That could prove expensive for employers, because age discrimination cases tend to be more costly than other discrimination cases.

When deciding what damages to award to a worker, courts look at a plaintiff's salary and at the likelihood he or she can find another good-paying job to off set the loss of the old one. Generally, the greater the economic damage caused by discriminatory behavior, the greater the monetary awards granted by the courts.

Because older workers generally earn more than younger ones, and because it often takes longer to find a comparable job and salary, their financial damages will be relatively greater.

Off the shelf: Microwave fudge; clothespin chopsticks; favored beef

BY RENEE ENNA
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Zap! It's fudge

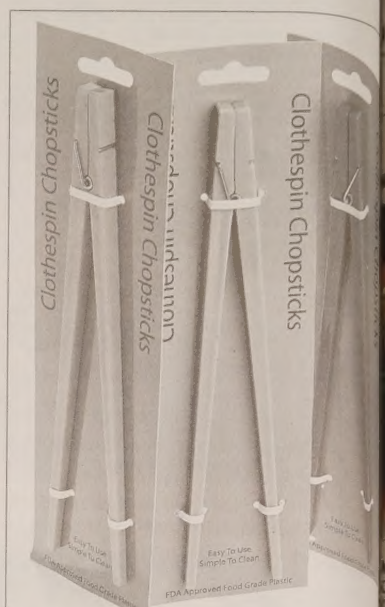
Rabbit Creek's microwave fudge is as simple as it sounds. You need one bowl, along with milk and butter, and 2 to 3 minutes in the microwave. It yields an 8-inch-square pan of fudge. Most of us enjoyed the texture and flavor of the finished candy; a few thought it too grainy. Four flavors (original, rocky road, cherry pecan and peanut butter-chocolate) are sold in pretty bags for \$6.50 each from Kitchen Krafts: 800-776-0575 or kitchenkrafts.com.

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